

# Regional Outcomes On-Farm for Sustainability

## “ROOFS”

### Bulletin 1

#### What is ROOFS?

Regional Outcomes On-Farm for Sustainability (ROOFS) is an initiative of the Tamar NRM. Tamar NRM is situated in northern Tasmania and is an independent not-for-profit natural resource management group that brings together a wide range of community, landcare, education, business and Local & State Government representatives. Tamar NRM is built upon a strong history of landcare and grass-roots involvement in environmental and agricultural issues in the Tamar Valley. Tamar NRM secured National Landcare Program (NLP) funding assistance for further development of a concept they have initiated called ROOFS.

The ROOFS concept was developed in response to experiences learned from substantial investment from Natural Heritage Trust 1 in the Tamar Region. These experiences indicated that **education** and **tools to change on-farm management** are more **effective** and **cost efficient** in achieving **lasting outcomes** than grant based incentives undertaken in isolation.

The ROOFS concept offers an opportunity to develop a holistic and logical framework to achieve both private and public outcomes. It will draw on existing national knowledge to:

- Enhance sustainable agricultural practices on farm;
- Provide methods to address relevant NRM (e.g. regional), regulatory and other community requirements;
- Recognise the multifunctional aspects of farming such as the contribution to clean air, water, enhanced biodiversity and social assets made by landholders; and
- Provide tools to assist measurement and communication of public good services on farm.

The ROOFS project is based on the concept that environmentally and socially responsible land management requires a combination of mutually supportive strategies with **PRODUCTIVITY** as the driver.

#### Northern Tasmania

##### NRM ASSETS

Biodiversity

Water

Land

Estuaries, coasts & marine

Atmosphere

#### ROOFS

Protecting, restoring & enhancing regional assets

Maintaining and improving farm sustainability

Demonstrating duty of care

Demonstrating public good services

#### ROOFS scoping study Team.

Tamar NRM recently appointed a multi-disciplinary based team to undertake the ROOFS scoping study to further develop the ROOFS concept.

The Team comprises of:

- Saan Ecker, Project Leader
- Jacky Williams, and
- Ian Kinnimonth

The project team has collectively many years of experience in NRM project development & implementation, working with rural communities, knowledge management and transfer systems. The team has been involved in a number of similar projects throughout Australia including: Blackwood National EMS Pilot: BestFarms; Soth East Queensland's Landplus! and Western Australia's AGMAPS geographic knowledge management and extension system.

The project team aim to draw on their combined experience and Australia's NRM networks to access cutting edge innovation currently in practice or being developed across Australia.

A working group made up of landholders, government and other interests from the Tamar oversees the project.

A National Peer Reference Panel has also been established to guide the project with representatives from key national R & D and NRM organisations.

“The aim of the ROOFS scoping study is to develop a delivery model for sustainable land-use change in the Tamar Region”.

## SCOPING STUDY ACTIVITIES

**Initial community consultation has suggested the following principles and processes:**

### Principles of the ROOFS project:

- Empowerment of Land Managers
- Dynamic knowledge exchange and transfer
- Addressing demands and needs of multiple stakeholders
- Productivity as a key driver
- Supporting Best Practice

### Processes to be scoped within the development of the ROOFS concept:

- Property Management Plans
- Productivity programs
- Information management systems
- Self Assessment Systems
- Environmental Management Systems
- Ecosystem service recognition and trading methods
- Certification / Accreditation / Approval processes

### July 05

Literature Review  
Focus workshops with stakeholders

### August 05

Compilation and analysis from stakeholder investigation activities

### September 05

*(Issue of Bulletin 2)*

Development of draft concept proposal

Recommendations for delivery framework for spatial & other information.

### October 05

*(Issue of Bulletin 3)*

Consult with committee and stakeholders to develop final proposal

Scoping of investment opportunities

### November 05

*(Issue of Bulletin 4 final)*

Final concept developed  
Develop investment proposal

### Project outline:

The project will be undertaken in four primary stages:

1. Stakeholder analysis
2. Auditing of mapping and information tools & development of delivery framework
3. Final design of ROOFS Pilot Project
4. Implementation: prepare project implementation proposal

### Contact details

If you would like to receive the bulletin or for further details please contact:

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Updates will be listed on the Tamar NRM website:  
<http://tamar-nrm.org.au>

