

Government Media Release

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Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Invasive Species Branch

A New Partnership to Fight Invasive Species

A new cooperative partnership is ensuring that stakeholders and government work together in establishing priorities for the management of invasive species in Tasmania.

The Invasive Species Community Partnership met for the second time last week to discuss ways to work together in managing the widespread threats that Tasmania faces from invasive animals and plants.

The Manager of the Invasive Species Branch in the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Craig Elliott, said collaboration is the key to achieving the greatest benefit for the state.

“The Partnership brings together government and groups such as the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Environment Tasmania, the Natural Resource Management regions, BirdLife Tasmania and the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association to discuss issues in an open forum,” Mr Elliott said.

“Members help identify priority areas for action and, most importantly, ways we can all work together to reduce the impact of invasive species in Tasmania in the most efficient way possible.”

Peter Skillern, from the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, said that the partnership allowed frank and honest discussion of the issues but emphasised that the goal of the group was to identify ways to work together in the fight against invasive species.

“By working together with government and other stakeholders we are able to ensure that we maximise our response and monitoring of invasive species,” Mr Skillern said.

“It is only through cooperation between stakeholders that the important issue of invasive species can be tackled in a holistic way.”

“The impact on the Tasmanian community both economically and from a human health perspective could be devastating if we don’t work together to prevent invasive species breaching our borders,” he said.

BirdLife Tasmania Convenor, Dr Eric Woehler, said the group represents a very positive approach to invasive species management in Tasmania.

“Some species of Tasmania’s birds are threatened by invasive birds, such as the rainbow lorikeet and the Indian myna.

“We have already seen hybrid rainbow and musk lorikeets in Tasmania, and the Indian myna would have catastrophic impacts on a wide range of birds in Tasmania if we don’t work together to ensure it doesn’t become established here,” he said.

The Invasive Species Community Partnership also includes DPIPWE’s Biosecurity and Product Integrity Division and the Parks and Wildlife Service, bringing a wide range of expertise to the table.

“We hope this partnership will also provide a greater opportunity for community involvement in invasive species management in Tasmania,” Mr Elliott said.

More information about the Invasive Species Community Partnership can be found at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasivespecies.

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Further information:

www.premier.tas.gov.au