



rivers

arteries of the Australian environment

LandWater & Wool

Shaping the future



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research project: MIDLANDS TASMANIA



Tasmanian wool - natural landscapes, natural fibres

Tasmania has a reputation for producing some of the finest and cleanest wool in the world.

Helping wool growers determine the best ways of integrating conservation management into sustainable grazing systems is the focus of this unique research project.

The five-year project is a partnership between the wool industry's *Land, Water & Wool* (LWW) initiative, the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) and the University of Tasmania. It will investigate the:

1. **management** of native vegetation in regions used for growing wool; and
2. **impact** of different management practices and land uses on the health of rivers.

The Tasmanian project comprises two linked projects, *Integrating Biodiversity with Sustainable Grazing Systems* and *Sustainable Sheep Grazing Systems for Riparian Landscapes*. The project aims to take a 'ridgetop to river' approach on how wool growers may better manage the natural areas on their properties. This strategy recognises that many parts of the landscape are linked and that an integrated approach to management is more effective than a fragmented one.

The research aims to:

- **develop** strategies for improving river health by trialing a range of management techniques;
- **monitor** the impact of a range of grazing management systems on different types of grazing runs such as ridges, slopes, gullies, flats and rivers;
- **identify** how wool growers can integrate the conservation of native pastures, bush, riparian land and wetlands into their existing farm management plans;
- **determine** the costs and benefits of changing management practices;
- **develop** a vision for the future for the region and for the wool industry. Issues might include increased wool quality, development of niche wool markets and industry accreditation; and
- **capitalise** on Tasmania's international reputation for fine fibres and its unique natural values.

Land, Water & Wool (LWW) is a joint investment between the wool industry's peak research and development body, Australian Wool Innovation Limited, and the nation's premier investor in natural resource management research; Land & Water Australia.

River Management and Water Quality is one of eight *Land, Water & Wool* programs: The others are:

-  Benchmarking and Evaluation
-  Sustainable Grazing on Saline Land (SGSL)
-  Native Vegetation and Biodiversity
-  Managing climate variability
-  Managing pastoral country
-  Future woolscapes
-  Sustainable Grazing Systems Harvest Year



Photo courtesy of DPIWE, Tasmania



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Key outcomes for wool growers

- **Improved** understanding of the impact of grazing systems on conservation.
- **Biodiversity** landscape mapping, including an inventory of native grasslands, grassy woodlands and riparian lands within the project area.
- **Active**, informative network of wool growers in Northern Midlands with key stakeholder involvement in workshops, focus groups etc.
- **Best** practice guidelines for managing native vegetation to enhance and protect biodiversity and productivity.
- **Strategies** to help the wool industry to improve wool quality, develop niche wool markets and industry accreditation.
- **Greater** protection of lowland grassy ecosystems and quality native vegetation in upland areas.
- **Protection** of healthy riparian land and other freshwater environments such as wetlands.
- **Rehabilitation** of degraded landscapes including vegetation and control of woody weeds.

fast facts
on Tasmania's wool country

Native country grazed:
500,000ha

Range of environments:
grasslands, woodlands, forests,
rivers, wetlands, marshes

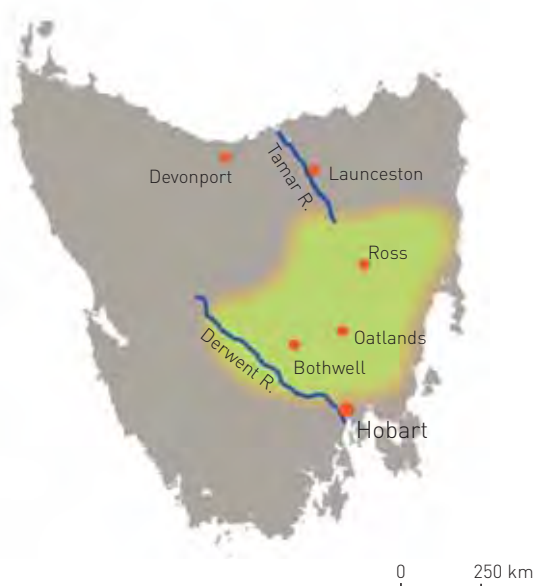
Annual rainfall:
450-900mm

Fine woolgrowers:
900

The study area

Tasmania's wool producing country includes the Midlands, Derwent Valley and East Coast regions. A number of these areas have some of Tasmania's most unique plants and animals.

All of these regions contain significant natural values with a high proportion of threatened species and communities. The National Land and Water Resources Biodiversity Report 2002 has identified the Midlands as a hotspot for biodiversity loss.



For further information contact:

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Order other Fact sheets about
Land, Water & Wool Rivers Projects:

- **Improving water quality to benefit wool production** PF 030 329
- **Preventing erosion to maximise wool production** PF 030 530



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- Improving water quality
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- Managing stock
- Managing woody debris in rivers
- Inland rivers and floodplains
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