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TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries & Water
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Weed funding supporting stronger partnerships

The Tasmanian Government is committed to helping farmers and community organisations protect our primary industries and the environment from weeds.

I am pleased to announce that we are providing a total of \$200,000 to 26 successful applicants as part of the latest small grants round of our Government's \$5 million Weeds Action Fund.

Funding for the latest round of grant applications range from \$1,547 to \$10,000.

This important initiative encourages the concept of shared responsibility for weed management and provides an opportunity for landowners to co-invest in removing the threat of serious weeds on their properties.

I congratulate the latest round of successful grant applicants and their commitment to strengthening Tasmania's biosecurity systems to protect our vital primary industry.

This process received a total of 63 applications, indicating a strong appetite for weed management support. The applications were received from a diverse range of candidates, such as local government, businesses, private landholders, community groups and catchment groups.

"This is a great example of how the Weeds Action Fund is getting strategic outcomes and many of the projects also represent broad partnerships of landholders working to collectively manage a priority weed issue. For example, one project led by Central Coast Council brings the five north west Councils together to work collaboratively on the management of Spanish Heath across their municipalities" said Weeds Action Fund Coordinator Dr Raelene Mibus.

I was pleased to recently meet property owner Julian Von Bibra, who will receive a small grant to support current weed management efforts on his property near Epping Forest. Mr Von Bibra will be using the funds

to implement a property-wide weed management program for the recently purchased 'Somerset'. This will include eradicating saffron thistle, cotton thistle, horehound and gorse from areas of sown pasture.

Another grant round for multiyear, landscape scale projects for weed containment and eradication is currently being finalised for released this autumn.

Visit www.nmnorth.org.au to find out more and register your interest.