



**SUBMISSION
TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
FOR THE
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRES PROGRAMME REVIEW
ANTARCTIC CLIMATE & ECOSYSTEMS - CRC**

BACKGROUND

The Tasmanian Polar Network (TPN) is the State's peak Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector industry body. The network is focused on promoting the growth of commercial benefits for Tasmania from science, research, education, business and industry. This submission is a response to a Discussion Paper from the Australian Government concerning the review of the CRC programme with particular relevance to the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems CRC (ACE).

There are two reference papers released by the TPN which are relevant to this submission; "Growing The Antarctic & Southern Ocean Sector – Buy In For Tasmania and the Nation" (Attachment 1); and "Submission To The Australian Government For The Twenty-Year Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan" (Attachment 2). These papers are for use by policy-makers and stakeholders to facilitate growth and sustainability in Australia's Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector and strengthen Australia's position as leader in Antarctic and Southern Ocean science.

The issues raised in these papers remain current and form background to this submission. Concerns of the TPN are outlined below.

KEY POINTS SUMMARY

1. The Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector has been identified by industry, state government and the recently released Australian *Twenty Year Antarctic Strategic Plan* and the senate joint committee recommendations on *Australia's Future Activities and Responsibilities in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic Waters* as a

future economic and social driver for the future prosperity of Tasmania (refer to next section for details).

2. There has never been a time at which Tasmania has received so much international attention with respect to what it can offer other countries operating in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector (e.g. China, South Korea and the US).

3. ACE is a truly unique research hub that drives leveraged collaboration between science/research institutions and government and its outputs have local, national and global significance.

4. Outputs from ACE should not be judged by using a typical business model because of the significant public good it creates and the lag phase associated with the medium to long term nature of researching Antarctic and Southern Ocean ecosystems.

5. Without ACE the sector would struggle to collaborate effectively and deliver outcomes which generate credibility for Australia's international reputation.

6. Industry is opposed to any future reduction in funding and/or loss of scientific, administrative and capital hardware from ACE. Such action would be short sighted and reckless because it would almost certainly put in jeopardy one of Tasmania's key underpinning sectors.

7. A plan must be implemented within the next twelve months by federal and state government, in coordination with key stakeholders, to ensure that Tasmania does not lose the unique collaborative efforts of ACE.

8. This industry body calls for funding for collaborative science, research, education and associated logistics to be ramped up immediately so that:

- Tasmania does not lose its world leading scientific capital to other states or countries
- Tasmania works to its strengths and maximises economic benefit from the sector
- Australia maintains its international credibility within the Antarctic Treaty System
- Australia adds resilience to its presence within the Antarctic and Southern Ocean region
- Australia can inform investment opportunities and risk manage natural fisheries resources, aquaculture, agriculture and local and regional planning decisions.

SUMMARY

The Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector is a vital component in the repositioning of Tasmania's economy.

- In 2011/12 the sector employed 1,185 Tasmanian FTEs (with a knock on of approximately 1600 indirect Tasmanian jobs)
- It contributed \$187 million to the Tasmanian Gross State Product (GSP)
- \$143 million was generated by organisations associated with the sector (including ACE)
- The sector grew by 12% between 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- The sector had a direct, indirect and induced contribution to **Tasmania's GSP of approximately \$450 million.**
- The success of the sector, and contribution to the future economic prosperity for Tasmania, depends upon maintaining and building the long established relationships between research, science, education and commercial entities.
- The expertise within ACE has accrued since 1991 and has become a critical part of Tasmania's Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector. Tasmania's status as an international gateway to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean is due in part to ACE's high profile and global significant work.
- ACE is the hub that connects national and international scientific expertise, industry innovation and local institutions.
- Without a connecting point for these organisations it is likely that collaboration and pooling of resources and expertise to leverage outcomes would not occur as effectively.
- Outputs have commercial and significant public good benefit (e.g. risk modeling for climate change impacts to local government planning, input to climate modeling for agriculture).
- Improved planning decisions based on ACE work is estimated to have saved \$230 million over 15 years in avoided loss to Australia's GDP growth.
- The organisation has been very successful at leveraging funding e.g. the Commonwealth annual funding of approximately \$4.7 million leverages \$19 million per annum (cash and in kind) through 21 institutional partners.

- It is difficult to directly account for the entire economic benefit that ACE contributes to Australia. Its public good contribution and nature of its medium to long term outputs do not fit a normal business model. It therefore would not be just to ACE (and nor to Tasmania) to judge any future funding on the short term cycle of pure economic return from science and research alone.
- A stable funding model for ACE in Tasmania is required for the long term (i.e. 10 years +).
- Tasmania's economy will be grossly undermined should a funding model not be approved for ACE beyond its current cycle.
- Tasmania cannot afford to lose this opportunity to grow the Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector.

Tasmania's Antarctic and Southern Ocean Sector – The time to invest is now

Further information:

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