

University of Melbourne – Department of Sustainability and Environment sign new collaborative agreement worth \$3.4M

9th July 2009

Forest and ecosystem research at the University of Melbourne received a new boost with the signing of a \$3.4 million agreement .

The agreement supports research in vital areas such as bushfire ecology and management, forests and water, assessment of vulnerability and adaptation of forests to climate change, the role of forests in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and monitoring of sustainable forest management.

The new agreement, signed on June 25th, is part of a nine year partnership between the University and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) to support research in the School of Forest and Ecosystem Science (SFES).

“This partnership is very important for the future management of Victorian and Australian forests”, says Professor Rod Keenan, Head of School and University partnership manager.

“By bringing together the combined resources of the University and the Victorian Government, we have been able to develop one of the largest centres of forest science in the southern hemisphere. This centre, based at the University’s historic Creswick campus, is a model for knowledge transfer and shared management of resources”.

More than 30 people, including senior University staff, DSE and others parts of government and industry attended the signing of the agreements by Professor Lyn Yates, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Ms Janine Haddow (Executive Director, Natural Resources) for DSE.

Ms Haddow confirmed the importance of the relationship: “DSE is committed to evidence-based policy and management. Research funded through this partnership is an important input to government policy on catchment management, climate change, sustainable timber harvesting and bushfire management.”

“DSE’s financial contribution to the new SFES Masters program in the form of scholarships and internships also demonstrates our commitment not only to research outcomes but enhancing the research capability of forest and fire management in Victoria.”

Investment in these projects generates an additional \$1.5M in research income from external sources such as Cooperative Research Centres and the Australian Research Council that would not be normally be available to researchers in government.

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DSE – SFES signing ceremony: (left to right) Professor Lyn Yates, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), on behalf of the University and Ms Janine Haddow (Executive Director, Natural Resources)



School of Forest and Ecosystem Science Management Committee (left to right) Professor Rick Roush, Professor Rod Keenan, Professor Ruth Fincher, Mr Scott Rawlings, Mr Duncan Pendrigh, Mr Ewan Waller, Ms Lynda Poke, Professor Lyn Yates, Ms Janine Haddow.