



## MEDIA RELEASE

7 August 2009

### ACE news for climate change science in CRC funding round

**Dr Tony Press, CEO of the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC), today welcomed the announcement that the Australian Government will fund an extension of the ACE CRC.**

“This is recognition that the climate change science being conducted at the ACE CRC is both extremely important and of high quality.

“Our research underpins what Australia and the world needs to know about climate change and its impacts – not only for Antarctica, but for Australia and globally.

“Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are major drivers of the world’s climate systems, and any changes there will have profound implications regionally and around the world,” Dr Press said.

The ACE CRC’s new five-year research plan will build on its outstanding contribution to international climate science.

It will investigate four key areas:

- Antarctica’s ice sheets and the surrounding sea ice
- changes in the Southern Ocean’s temperature and currents
- the role of the Southern Ocean in storing carbon, and
- the impacts of changes on Southern Ocean ecosystems.

“Some of the biggest questions about how the world should respond to climate change have to be answered in the Antarctic,” Dr Press said.

“This is because Antarctica’s great ice sheets, the sea ice around Antarctica, and the world’s great ocean currents are all linked. Their global influence is immense.”

Professor Daryl Le Grew, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, also welcomed the announcement. “This funding confirms the important place that the University of Tasmania has in this field,” Professor Le Grew said.



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“It complements the University’s recent decision to establish the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), with Australian Government funding of \$45 million, which will create a marine science precinct on the Hobart waterfront, and the Australian Government’s Super Science Marine and Climate initiative.

“This is an indication that Hobart is destined to become the Antarctic and marine science hub of the Southern Hemisphere.”

Dr Katherine Woodthorpe, Chair of the ACE CRC’s Governing Board, thanked the Australian Government and Senator Carr for the continuing support for the CRC. She also thanked the partners in the CRC for working together to put forward the five-year research plan.

“We have a very productive research team and there is no other climate research centre like it in the world,” Dr Woodthorpe said.

“With the Government’s consistent view that policy must be informed by a clear understanding of the science of climate change, the Board is looking forward to the CRC delivering more important science over the next five years.”

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### Interviews invited. High quality vision and stills available.

#### Media enquiries:

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#### Attachments

1. ACE CRC New Funding Backgrounder
2. Announcement by the Minister for IISR, Senator the Hon Kim Carr

The Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC) is a collaborative partnership dedicated to the study of atmospheric and oceanic processes of the Southern Ocean, their role in global and regional climate change, and their impact on sustainable management of Antarctic marine ecosystems. The ACE CRC’s core partners are the Australian Antarctic Division, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, and the University of Tasmania. Supporting partners are the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (Germany), the Australian Department of Climate Change, the Australian National University, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (New Zealand), Silicon Graphics International, and the Tasmanian Department of Economic Development. Established and supported under the Australian Government’s Cooperative Research Centre Program.

