

*Practical information, resources and opportunities for  
north-west Tasmanian farmers and agricultural service providers.*

## **Welcome to the February edition of *Our Natural Advantage*, Cradle Coast NRM's monthly climate-smart farming snapshot.**

The theme of this edition is:

### **Natural Disaster Preparedness**

Keeping your farm and family safe

North-west Tasmania is exposed to many natural risks, some of which are more obvious and threatening than others.

It is important to take the time to review, plan and prepare for the worst to give you, your family and livelihood the best chance of weathering the worst.

#### **Bushfire**

Summer can mean different things for different agricultural enterprises across our region with many at the peak of production while others may be in a period of relative reprieve. One thing that does ramp for all farmers in summer is the risk of bushfires as the landscape dries out and temperatures warm.

Tasmanian communities at Dolphin Sands and St Helens were impacted by destructive fires before Christmas and Victorian communities are reeling from devastating fires on a massive scale. Virtually the whole of Tasmania is exposed to high level bushfire risk, with farmers especially vulnerable.

It is important for landowners to:

- Understand Fire Danger Ratings, bushfire warnings and alert levels
- Know what to expect on high fire risk days
- Adequately prepare yourself and your property
- Have a plan for yourself, your family and staff and your livestock

The Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) have resources to help you plan and prepare yourself and your property for bushfire, including support to [develop a personalised Bushfire Plan](#).



*Aftermath of the February 2025 bushfires on Tasmania's West Coast*

### **Machinery use and fire risk**

The use of machinery such as harvesters, slashers, mowers, brush cutters and vehicles can lead to accidental fires in or near dry vegetation. On average there are nine machinery-caused fires reported to the TFS each year.

Machinery operators must be extra vigilant in preparing, managing and responding to fire, including checking the conditions to ensure it is safe to operate at all, preparing for if a fire does break-out and being ready to respond effectively and safely.

For more information, see the [TFS Machinery Operations Guidelines: A basis for safe work in dry vegetation.](#)



*Smoky sky over a rural road*

## Floods

Floods are not uncommon across our north-west Tasmanian river catchments, but with our warming climate we are expected to experience more extreme and heavy rainfall events, even in areas where rainfall has been declining overall (see [Tasmania's Risk assessment for Climate Change 2024](#)). This is because with every degree of warming, the [atmosphere can hold about 7% more moisture](#).

Flooding is one of the most dangerous natural hazards in Tasmania and can have far reaching impacts on farmers including risk to stock and infrastructure, short and long-term access issues and large-scale damage to production areas.

Visit the [Tasmanian State Emergency Service \(SES\)](#) to see the [Tasmanian flood maps](#) to find out if your property is at risk of flooding. Use this information to get ready and reduce your risk.

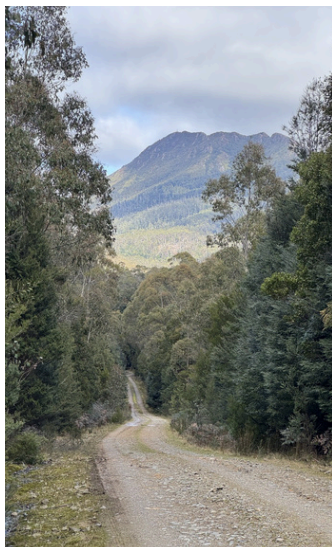


*Dog 'Cactus' stands on what was once a bridge following the 2016 Inglis River flood at Flowerdale*

## Other key threats

North-west Tasmanian communities have also endured other devastating natural events in recent years including severe and damaging storms, drought, terrestrial and marine heatwaves and biosecurity threats. Each person and business has different levels of exposure to different threats, but it is well worth the time to assess your level of risk and take action to reduce your risk where appropriate.

Natural disasters also take an immense toll on our short and long term mental health. Lifeline (13 11 14) is a free and confidential one-to-one support service for anyone feeling overwhelmed, distressed or having difficulty staying safe. Additionally, Rural Alive and Well (1800 RAW TAS / 1800 729 827) is here to support you through difficult times. If you prefer to access digital resources, try visiting Phoenix Australia's Disaster Mental Health Hub, where you can access [Disaster Recovery Toolkits](#) which provide strategies for coping in difficult circumstances.



## Resources

**Tas Alert:** Download the app to stay up to date on any emergency alerts near you.

[Download the app here.](#)

**Create a bushfire plan** by the Tasmanian Fire Service: Create a tailored plan in three easy steps. [Try it out here.](#)

**Drought feeding and management of beef cattle** by Agriculture Victoria: A handy, in-depth guide for farmers. [View the guide here.](#)

**Tasmanian flood maps** by the Tasmanian State Emergency Services: Learn how to use the maps to inform decision making for your property and family. [Check it out here.](#)

**Fire resistant garden plants** by the Tasmanian Fire Service: Learn how to plant safer gardens around your property and which plants to consider removing. [Visit the resource here.](#)

## Events and Opportunities

### **Pasture 365 Field Walk**

Hosted by: UTAS

Location: Hagley Farm School

Date: 3 Feb, 10 AM to 12 PM

Registration not required.

### **February Seasonal Update**

Hosted by: Ag Logic

Location: Online

Date: 6 Feb, 1 PM

[Register here.](#)

### **Elliot Dairy Field Day**

Hosted by: Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

Location: Elliot

Date: 17 February

[Get your tickets here.](#)

### **Farm Business Resilience Program**

This popular program will be returning in 2026! Registrations of interest are now open.

[Find out more here.](#)



We're still keen to hear what you know about On-Farm Natural Capital!  
Fill out this quick 5-minute survey to share your thoughts with us.

**Fill out our Natural Capital survey!**

Missed a previous edition? Browse other topics from *Our Natural Advantage* below.

**View past editions**

If you would like to share a relevant resource, event or opportunity, please email [landprogram@cradlecoast.com](mailto:landprogram@cradlecoast.com) by 15 January to be considered for the next edition.

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