



## Media Release

22 May 2009

### **TCT joins new Stop Invasive Species Alliance**

To commemorate International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust has today joined 18 state and national environment groups to launch a new alliance – the Stop Invasive Species Alliance – to campaign on invasive species threats to Australian biodiversity.

The United Nations proclaimed 22 May as International Day for Biological Diversity and invasive species is the theme for 2009.

“The TCT has joined this new Alliance in recognition that many of Tasmania’s feral animal, weed and disease problems cannot be fought in isolation and many will require national leadership from the Australian Government to combat ,” said TCT Acting Director Peter McGlone.

Invasive animals, plants and diseases are recognized globally as one of the top threats to biodiversity, along with land clearing and climate change.

“For too long Tasmanians thought being an island made us invulnerable to invasive species but the introduction of foxes, gambusia and other species in recent times must be a wake-up call.”

“As well as supporting local action, the TCT hopes the new SISA will lobby for greater leadership from the Australian Government, especially providing stronger regulation and more funding to tackle priority invasive species and strengthening border controls to prevent new introductions.”

The SISA Declaration sets out the rationale and key foci of the alliance. Information about the alliance is available at <http://stopinvasives.wordpress.com/>.

#### **Further comment:**

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