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MEDIA RELEASE

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Vegetable Industry Strategic Plan must address poisoning native animals

Tasmania's peak conservation group today warned that the new Tasmanian Vegetable Industry Strategic Plan will be seriously compromised if there is no distinction between vegetable growers who poison native animals and those who don't.

TCT Director Craig Woodfield says that the industry has a major opportunity to legitimately brand itself as clean and green which it cannot afford to miss.

"Let's be very clear about this – the Tasmanian vegetable industry is neither clean nor green, because there is no distinction between farms where native animals are persecuted and farms that are managed in a wildlife-friendly manner."

"Consumers are becoming increasingly aware of Tasmania's persecution of native animals and want to be able to make an informed choice. They don't want to buy produce that comes at such a huge cost for wildlife" says Lindy Stacker, spokesperson for WLPA in Sydney.

Each year in Tasmania, farmers deliberately poison tens of thousands of pademelons, wallabies, possums and native hens, with thousands of non-target species such as bettongs, bandicoots, eagles, goshawks and wombats also killed.

For comment call Craig Woodfield on 6234 3552 or 0417 160 751