

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE RESEARCH
between
Chinese Academy of Sciences
and
The Government of Tasmania**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), entered into this 10th day of September 2015 between the Tasmanian Government and the Chinese Academy of Sciences is to foster cooperation in research between the Tasmanian and Chinese Governments.
2. The Tasmanian devil, *Sarcophilus harrisii*, is the world's largest remaining carnivorous marsupial (since the presumed extinction of the thylacine or Tasmanian tiger). It is found in the wild only in Tasmania where it is widespread. Although once common, it is now regarded as a threatened species.
3. Since the mid-1990s, devils have suffered a major threat due to an extremely rare transmissible cancer known as Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD), which is lethal and spread primarily by direct contact between devils. DFTD is one of only three types of known transmissible cancer.

Opportunity for cooperative research

4. The Tasmanian Government has sponsored the development of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program as the focus for conservation activities for the species. The Save the Tasmanian Devil Program has developed strong national and international partnerships to progress conservation of the species.
5. The Chinese Academy of Sciences includes internationally recognised key centres for research on disease and conservation sciences. The Chinese Academy of Sciences is interested in opportunities to contribute to the conservation of the Tasmanian devil through research in relation to the disease. The parties discuss the potential for an agreed program of research work.
6. The Save the Tasmanian Devil Program has developed a significant bioarchive of tissue from Tasmanian devils and DFTD tumours. In order to facilitate the Chinese Academy of Sciences undertaking an agreed program of research into DFTD, the Tasmanian Government will facilitate access to this bioarchive for research that will assist in the management of the disease and Tasmanian devils.
7. Access to material will be under a Material Transfer Agreement to be executed separately by the parties.

8. Terms and conditions of the research such as Conduct of the Research, Reporting and Publication of Results of Research, Intellectual Property Rights, Confidentiality and Term and Termination are also outlined the Material Transfer Agreement.

9. Upon signature by each institution, this agreement shall remain in effect for three years from final signature or until terminated by either institution. Such termination by one institution shall be effected by giving the other institution at least six (6) months advance written notice of its intention to terminate. This agreement can be extended for a further period of time upon mutual agreement between the parties.

Signed at Beijing this 10th day of September 2015.

For the Government of Tasmania represented by

For the Chinese Academy of Sciences represented by

The Hon Matthew Groom
Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage

Professor WU Yueliang
Vice President