

## Warra Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Site

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The Warra LTER Site of 15 900 ha was designated in 1995 to encourage long-term ecological research and monitoring in wet forests in Tasmania. The site is supported by eight LTER site partners from Tasmanian and national research agencies. Continuing projects are listed at [www.warra.com](http://www.warra.com)  
DFRD provided Warra small-project grants to 2 researchers during 2008 - 09.

### Major activities for 2008 - 09

- Collected spatial and historical information for catchments in Warra LTER to determine biophysical factors that have the greatest influence on water quality and yield
- Collated and reported water quality data for 15 water sampling sites
- Upgraded instruments at the Warra weirs to include remote telemetry
- Completed second 3-year sampling of emerging saproxylic beetles from Warra Log Decay Study. Beetles have been sorted, identified and databased in preparation for analysis.
- Completed annual surveys of ground beetles and birds in control plots at the SST, and completed first of the 10-year post-harvest treatments.
- Successful ARC Linkage Grant to use molecular methods to map dispersal of saproxylic beetles in the Southern Forests Experimental Forest Landscape (SFEFL) anchored at Warra. The grant will fund a post-doctoral researcher and a PhD student for three years

*Dr Sandra Roberts of Forestry Tasmania with visiting University of Syracuse biogeochemist Assoc Prof Chris Johnson and doctoral student Ankit Balaria at a weir in Warra*

- Successful inclusion of the Warra LTER in an expanded Ozflux network, allowing future establishment of a carbon flux tower in a mature / regrowth *E. obliqua* forest
- Analysis of initial sample of ground beetles collected from the Baseline Altitudinal Monitoring Transects
- Provided Warra Honours scholarship to Ian Riley (in collaboration with CRC for Forestry) to study carbon content of water in Warra streams
- Sampled lichen and bryophyte plots in retained aggregates of two Warra SST coupes, completed species identifications and prepared the dataset for final analyses

### Projects commenced 2008 - 09 at the Warra LTER site

- Variation of volume, mass and carbon-content of coarse woody debris in tall wet *E. obliqua* forests in a chronosequence after fire disturbance or harvest. Project Leader - Eva Hilbig and Prof J Bauhus  
Affiliation - Freiburg University, Germany
- Baseline sampling of bats in aggregated retention coupes and other silvicultural treatments at Warra. Project Leader - Dr Bradley Law, Forests NSW

