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Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

Mining continues to grow under Government

The mining and mineral processing industry accounts for over 50 per cent of the value of the State's goods exports and most importantly provides employment for thousands of Tasmanians.

According to the latest ABS international exports figures, the value of our mining and metal related exports continue to grow, increasing to over \$2 billion in the year to April 2018, an increase of 40 per cent compared to the previous year.

This means more jobs and opportunities for Tasmanians, particularly in our regional areas.

These strong results build on other good news including:

- Grange Resources' Savage River operation adding 54 new jobs to its workforce as a result of increased operations--a 12% boost since January 2017--and investing \$10 million in the first stage of a feasibility study to investigate accessing the ore body through underground development;
- The granting of approvals for a new \$100 million iron ore mine at Rogetta south of Burnie, which will create more than 200 jobs during construction, up to 100 permanent positions and deliver a significant boost to regional Tasmania, with the potential to generate export revenues of up to \$100 million each year; and
- According to the most recent ABS data, mineral exploration spending for the March 2018 quarter increased by 76% in trend terms compared to March 2017.

This is why the Government has committed \$2 million in the 2018-19 Budget to an exploration grants program to promote new drilling to underpin the future of the mining industry.

There is no stronger or more consistent supporter of the mining sector than the Hodgman Liberal Government.