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Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

## Confidence soars in Mining sector

One of Tasmania's largest mines is increasing job numbers and investigating underground exploration options in the North-West of the State.

Grange Resources' Savage River operation has added 54 new jobs to its workforce as a result of increased operations, which is a 12% boost since January 2017.

Furthermore, Grange Resources have advised they will invest \$10 million in the first stage of a feasibility study to investigate accessing the ore body through underground development.

If found to be feasible, a move underground could underpin the future development and life of the mine while adding certainty and more opportunity for Braddon.

This news comes on top of latest mineral exploration figures from the ABS for the December 2017 quarter which show a 23.7% increase in spending over the previous quarter and a more than 140% increase over the December quarter in 2016.

The mining and mineral processing sector supports more than 6000 jobs in Tasmania, and accounted for 55 per cent of our exports—or more than \$1.5 billion in 2016-17.

The Government wants to see this industry thrive which is why we will develop a \$2 million drilling exploration grants program to help underpin the future of the industry.

We have also re-located Mineral Resources Tasmania to Burnie to provide new jobs and support for mining in the heartland of Braddon.

Alongside this support, we have also seen the recent re-opening of the Henty Gold Mine, the sale of the Avebury nickel mine to a Tasmanian based company, the granting of a mining lease for Stellar Resources Heemskirk Tin Project near Zeehan, and the Hodgman Liberal Government's \$9.5 million investment in CMT to help bring forward the potential re-start of the iconic Mt Lyell mine.

There is no greater or more consistent supporter of the mining industry than the Hodgman Liberal Government.