



26 July 2019

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

## **Meat industry meets**

The Hodgman Liberal Government is a strong supporter of Tasmania's red meat industry, a vital sector working towards achieving our target of growing the farm gate value of Tasmanian agriculture to \$10 billion by 2050.

Red meat producers from across the state met in Launceston today for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Red Meat Updates.

First held in 2013, the Red Meat Updates have become the premier conference for the sector, attracting more than 300 attendees each year.

The red meat sector, with a farm gate value of well over \$400 million per year, is critical to the Tasmanian economy, employing hundreds of Tasmanians, particularly in regional Tasmania.

The theme of this year's conference was Getting Down to Business and included a focus on business and people management.

The Government is committed to supporting this sector to grow by working with farmers and processors to develop strategies to increase trade, marketing value and sales of Tasmanian red meat.

In June, I announced the Government's acceptance of the recommendations of the Meat Industry Working Group. This included seed funding for a Red Meat Industry Development Officer position for an initial three years to ensure that industry strategies become a reality.

Through the Department of State Growth, the Government has have provided more than \$800,000 to help smaller meat processors increase Tasmanian-based processing capacity. We are also supporting our farmers through the \$648,000 Pastures and Livestock Productivity Project, AgriGrowth loans, improved biosecurity and trade strategies.