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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Federal Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Richard Colbeck,

Duck Irrigation scheme creates opportunity for North West producers

Smithton farmers now have unparalleled opportunity with up to 5,200 megalitres of water available following today's launch of the Duck Irrigation Scheme.

Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Guy Barnett today joined the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud and Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Richard Colbeck, to officially launch the scheme.

Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Guy Barnett, said the \$29.98 million scheme will play an integral role in assisting the Hodgman Liberal Government meet our target of increasing the farm gate value of Tasmania's agricultural sector to \$10 billion a year by 2050.

"There is no doubt that the Duck Irrigation Scheme is a game changer for this region, allowing producers to invest in new high-value dairy, livestock and vegetables enterprises and I congratulate Tasmanian Irrigation and all involved in its construction," Mr Barnett said at today's launch.

"This new scheme will supply reliable water to 23 irrigators through 40 property outlets, with 29 jobs expected to be generated on farm and a further 29 in support services"

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Richard Colbeck said the Scheme will significantly boost the region's agricultural production, driving investment and creating jobs in the local community.

"The Australian Liberal National Government's investment in the National Water Infrastructure Fund now totals more than \$1.3 billion and the \$15.83 million contribution to the Duck Irrigation Scheme was part of a \$60 million Federal commitment to Tranche 2 made in 2015," Minister Colbeck said.

"Greater water security not only improves current farming prospects, but also gives producers more opportunities for crop diversification, driving the jobs and investment our regional communities need to thrive."

The Duck Scheme is one of five Tranche Two irrigation schemes jointly delivered, or are in the process of being delivered, by the State and Federal Governments working in partnership with farming communities.

Tasmanian Irrigation is working with farming communities and agribusiness to develop the third tranche of Tasmanian Irrigation schemes – or the Pipeline for Prosperity program – which was recently been added to Infrastructure Australia’s Infrastructure Priority List.