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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

## Tasmanian dairy sector breaks production record

Tasmania's dairy industry is a great success story and the Tasmanian Government is delighted to announce that milk production in 2019-20 has set a new annual record.

Tasmania's dairy industry is synonymous with our quality Brand, and supports thousands of jobs across hundreds of farms in regional communities.

The new production record of 950 million litres is a 4.5 per cent increase from 909 million litres in 2018-2019, and breaks the previous record of 913 million litres in 2017-2018.

This record follows recent figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics which shows Tasmania's agricultural production is growing at a faster rate than the rest of the country, and increased in value by 2.1 per cent over the previous 12 months.

Tasmanian producers have shown their resilience to grow the state's agricultural production to \$1.64 billion in 2018-19.

Dairy was once again Tasmania's highest value commodity in 2018-19 with the ABS reporting an agricultural production value of \$457 million, up 6 per cent on 2017-18, driven by higher farm gate prices.

Since 2015-16 Tasmania's agricultural production has increased by 10.3 per cent compared with the national rate of 7.9 per cent during the same period.

This is a great outcome for Tasmanian producers because 2018-19 was a tough year with the tail end of the fruit fly response as well as summer bushfires during this period.

The Government is delivering \$900,000 over four years through the 'Grow more, Milk more and Make more' initiative to work with dairy farmers on productivity, farm business and value-adding strategies.

Support includes a dairy-specific round of the highly successful On Farm Energy Audit and Capital Grants Program, a Dairy Extension program that delivered the very successful Farm Manager/2IC training program, financial management mentoring and business planning program for dairy farmers and the Stock Underpass Program that assists farmers to construct road underpasses to safely and efficiently move stock.

Tasmania's primary industry sector is a vital essential service during these challenging times and will play an important role in the state's economic recovery as it puts food on the plates of Tasmanians and also many other Australians.

Tasmania produces nearly three times as much food as we consume on-island, so we are immensely proud of our farmers who have worked hard to keep the nation's produce supply chains open.

Tasmania's farmers and the agriculture sector are both innovative and resilient and these outstanding growth figures show we are on target to achieve our goal to grow agricultural production to \$10 billion by 2050.