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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Support for Tasmania's valuable bee industry

The Hodgman Liberal Government recognises the value of Tasmania's honey and pollination industries, which is why we committed \$750,000 over three years for the Bee Industry Futures actions, to help build confidence and provide better access to resources.

Beekeepers not only produce iconic leatherwood honey, a premium and exclusively Tasmanian product, they also provide bees to pollinate many of our highest value fruit, cereal and vegetable crops.

These pollination services make a critical contribution and have higher economic value than honey production which had a 2017-18 farm-gate value for honey and bees wax in excess of \$8 million and exports worth \$2.4 million.

Tasmanian producers have faced challenging times in recent seasons including bushfires, which have damaged hives and restricted access to leatherwood and other flowering species.

The Tasmanian Government has taken action to support the industry and manage the impacts of recent challenging seasons and help restore confidence and build for the future.

Working closely with stakeholders including the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association, the Tasmanian Crop Pollination Association, the TFGA, Fruit Growers Tasmania and other pollination-dependent industries, the government has made a range of short-term assistance measures available and committed to longer-term strategic actions.

The Bee Industry Futures report will chart the way forward and support increased resilience in our honey and bee industry.

Immediate and longer term assistance provided to the bee industry includes:

- Up to 12 months fee relief for leases and licenses where hive sites are on crown land;
- Providing up to \$150,000 to help Tasmania's commercial beekeepers meet operational costs;

- Funding over 12 months for a part-time Industry Development Officer to help recovery, and strategic growth; and
- Investing \$40,000 to fund joint scientific research by the University of Tasmania and Collaborative Research Corporation into medicinal and other qualities of Leatherwood honey for market and trade benefits.

The Hodgman Liberal Government remains committed to continue working closely with the industry to create a clear vision to ensure a strong, sustainable future for the Tasmanian honey and pollination industries.

The Bee Industry Futures Report is available on the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment website <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/agriculture/bee-industry-futures-report>