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TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water
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Helping our agricultural shows get back to business after COVID-19

The Tasmanian Liberal Government understands the important role agricultural shows play in our regional communities by bringing Tasmanians together, showcasing our top quality produce and livestock and encouraging investment in our regions.

Many of our agricultural shows either had to be cancelled or significantly adapted in response to COVID-19, and we want to support them to return stronger and in a COVID-Safe way this year.

Applications are now open for the Agricultural Show Development Grants Program 2020-21, with grants of up to \$25,000 available to support the operation of eligible agricultural shows.

The funding will be open to rural and regional show societies across Tasmania, to upgrade vital community infrastructure and ensure these iconic community events remain relevant into the future.

We want to secure the future of our agricultural shows which face increasing challenges such as rising operational costs, maintaining ageing infrastructure, attracting funding and volunteer support, and meeting changing community expectations.

Importantly, the 2021 guidelines have been broadened to include support to meet additional costs in holding events and keep patrons, workers and volunteers safe due to COVID-19.

Our shows play an important cultural and social role across Tasmania, celebrating life on the land and showcasing local strengths and hospitality. We want these events to not only secure their futures, but thrive and I look forward to seeing what our regional shows have planned for Tasmanians over the next 12 months.

Program guidelines and application forms are available from the Department of Communities Tasmania website www.communities.tas.gov.au/csr.

Applications close at 5 pm on 31 March 2021.