



5 June 2019

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Supporting Tasmania's Meat Industry

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.

We have been working closely with the sector to respond to recent challenges, and the Government's Tasmanian Meat Industry Working Group, chaired by the Hon. Leonie Hiscutt MLC, has completed its report and provided it to the Government.

The Report and recommendations of the Working Group will inform the long-term strategy for Tasmania's \$400 million red meat sector.

I pleased to announce today the Government is accepting all 26 findings and recommendations of the Working Group, including supporting Tasmanian based processing, ongoing investment in biosecurity and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) and industry marketing and development.

The 2019-20 State Budget invests \$1 million to drive development in the red meat industry and to deliver the Working Group's recommendations.

The Budget also includes additional funding for Biosecurity Tasmania, and the increased support to TIA. In addition, through the Department of State Growth more than \$800,000 is helping smaller processors increase Tasmanian-based capacity.

Our practical investments in the meat industry totals more than \$2.4 million across two Budgets, including the \$648,000 Pastures and Livestock Productivity Project to increase production and supply of red meat.

The Working Group's recommendations, together with the commercial proposal to more than double sheep and lamb capacity at TQM Cressy, will ensure that our state is served by a diversified processing sector heavily-focused on Tasmanian based value-adding and local jobs.

This will deliver two major beef works, one significantly larger sheep works and a number of local works with expanded capacity to meet the growing demand for Tasmanian products. We are continuing to work with the industry on a long-term pork solution.

I thank the members of the Working Group, which comprised representatives from key producer groups, the Australian Meat Industry Council, and the Secretaries of both the Department of State

Growth and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment for their hard work and commitment to supporting Tasmania's red meat industry.

For more information on the Working Group's Recommendations go to <https://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/agriculture/tasmanian-meat-industry-working-group>