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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Biosecurity legislation to protect Tasmania's way of life

The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to strengthening Tasmania's biosecurity systems to protect our primary industries, environment, community and the tourism sector.

Today I am proud to table the Biosecurity Bill 2019 which replaces seven current Acts with a single modern statute that is "fit-for-purpose" and which will bring us into line with other jurisdictions.

This legislation confirms our Government has biosecurity as a top priority.

Tasmania's reputation as a premium producer of agricultural and seafood products and as a tourism destination, is reliant on a rigorous and effective biosecurity system.

It underpins our \$2.4 billion in agri-food production per annum, over \$3 billion in exports and our \$2.8 billion inbound tourism industry.

This Bill will help ensure Tasmania has modern biosecurity laws capable of furthering the Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy, whilst minimising red tape for business and the general community.

It is the outcome of more than four years of consultation, and this extensive work has resulted in broad support from industry groups.

The Hodgman Liberal Government takes biosecurity very seriously, and we are backing up our words with real action to protect Tasmanian primary industries and our environment.

We have invested significantly in biosecurity, doubled the number of detector dog teams, and invested more to boost frontline services to meet seasonal demands.

We have delivered vital biosecurity infrastructure including diagnostic laboratories, border signage, and the Powranna truck wash and we are investing more to tackle pests and weeds.

The Biosecurity Bill 2019 is the next step in modernising our biosecurity systems so they can continue protecting us for the next thirty years.