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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Highlighting excellence in Tasmanian agriculture

Tasmanian agriculture is booming and today I was thrilled to present the Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group's annual Awards for Excellence in Agriculture at their annual meeting.

Congratulations to Peter Aird, Dr William Cotching and Dr John McPhee for their Lifetime Achievement Awards, and to Caitlin Radford for her Young Entrepreneur Award.

Each of these award winners have made significant contributions to the sector and highlight the value of implementing precision agriculture techniques and practices, as well as the importance of supporting and educating the next generation of farmers.

We know precision agriculture techniques are a game-changer for farmers. It includes technology advancements in satellite technology, mapping, automation, sensors, data collection and processing.

Precision agriculture offers the prospect of increasing crop yields while reducing input costs, maintaining the environmental asset base, and providing all-round improvements in efficiency.

It has the potential to increase agricultural productivity and economic returns while also reducing carbon emissions.

TAPG's annual Precision Agriculture (Innovation) Expo, run in collaboration with the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and other partners, has grown to become a key event on the agricultural calendar.

The annual Expo is a legacy of the \$346,000 that the Tasmanian Government contributed to the Precision Agriculture Project back in 2014 and is a great example of the effective collaboration of private enterprise, primary producers, contractors and the State Government to improve outcomes for our state.

Since 2014 we have been able to provide further funding through the Government's Strategic Industry Partnership Program to support this important event.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government looks forward to continuing the strong working relationship we enjoy with TAPG as we work towards the target of a \$10 billion agricultural farm gate value by 2050.