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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Improving our agricultural sector competitiveness

The Gutwein majority Liberal Government recognises that agriculture is a key pillar of the Tasmanian economy, supporting regional jobs and communities.

Through the comprehensive *Tasmania's Sustainable AgriFood Plan 2019-2023* we are investing in a range of initiatives to help achieve our ambitious goal to grow the farm gate value of Tasmanian agriculture to \$10 billion by 2050.

Looking towards the future we are also working with industry to develop a whole-of-government White Paper on the Competitiveness of Tasmanian Agriculture for 2050, to ensure our agricultural industries remain globally competitive.

Today I'm releasing a Discussion Paper and encouraging Tasmanians to have their say on the potential future policy actions and initiatives the State Government can support to address key issues impacting the cost of production, investment and the profitability of farmers and agribusiness.

While the government is the number one supporter of Tasmanian agriculture, we believe in providing farmers with certainty and confidence that Government will get out of their way and let them get on with the business of farming.

Initial consultation with peak industry groups has identified both barriers and opportunities and identified six main focus areas:

- Innovation for the future – research and development;
- Smarter regulation;
- Investing in people;
- Managing risk;
- Harnessing our natural capital; and
- Capitalising on our brand.

The discussion paper also identifies three emerging priorities, which will underpin future economic growth, community and social wellbeing and sustainability:

- Circular Economy – closing agri-food resource loops and working towards zero waste for profit and sustainability;

- Digital Transformation – integrating digital technology across the agri-food supply chain, increasing farm productivity and improving efficiency and profitability; and
- Agricultural Innovation at the Core – generating ideas to solve problems and capture value.

The public consultation period is now open with submissions to the discussion paper closing 24 February 2020. Submissions can also be made via the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Competitiveness2050>

The final White Paper will be released in March.

To find out more visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/competitiveness and for information on Tasmania's Sustainable AgriFood Plan visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/agriculture/tasmanias-agri-food-plan