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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

New trial supports growth in industrial hemp in Tasmania

A new pilot trial supported by the Tasmanian Government and AgriFutures Australia is set to strengthen and grow the industrial hemp industry in Tasmania.

Industrial hemp is an emerging industry and the new three-year trial will help identify which industrial hemp varieties are best suited to Australian conditions.

Tasmania is one of Australia's largest producers of industrial hemp, supplying over 30 per cent of Australia's total industrial hemp crop in 2019-20.

The Tasmanian Government's co-contribution of \$150,000 over three years to support the trials is an investment in a rapidly growing industry.

In 2019-20, over 1,500 hectares of industrial hemp were grown in Tasmania, compared to 1,361 hectares the previous season, and up from 464 hectares in 2017-18.

This season's farm gate value is expected to contribute \$5 million to the Tasmanian economy and a billboard was erected this week near Epping Forest to highlight its potential.

Growth of the industry in Tasmania has come mainly from growers scaling up their crops as they make long-term commitments to the hemp industry. There is also an increased investment in seed drying infrastructure and oil pressing facilities as local confidence in the industry grows.

The Tasmanian Hemp Association will run the trial in Tasmania, which is one of several trials across Australia supported by the AgriFutures Emerging Industries program.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is committed to investing in our innovative industries and supporting our farmers as we work collaboratively towards sustainably growing the farm gate value of agriculture to \$10 billion by 2050.