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TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water
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Rivers of gold for Tasmanian agriculture

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is investing in industries that are employing Tasmanians such as agriculture which is a cornerstone of the Tasmanian economy.

Farmers and land owners know that water is liquid gold and we are delivering it at record levels.

During 2019-20, a record 870,000 megalitres of high surety irrigation water was made available, up 64,000 megalitres from last year.

This means that thousands of farmers across the State are able to expand the area of their high-value crops, increase rotations, boost yields, and diversify into new enterprises, such as wine grapes, leafy-green vegetables and berries.

We are also making it easier to do business and drought proof farms by reducing red tape for dam construction, which is saving farmers significant time and money.

During 2019-20, the average time for processing applications for Division 4 dam works permits was six days - significantly better than the target of 14 days, and one day less than in 2018-19.

The average time for processing applications for Division 3 dam works was 46 days, which is 38 days less than the statutory timeframe and six days less than in 2018-19.

The Government also recognises the importance of accurate water monitoring information for farmers and land managers.

We actively monitor streamflow across 81 sites, providing farmers and land managers with access to up to date data on water flow, water quality, groundwater, and natural freshwater values.

This helps our primary producers with planning and investment decisions, which in turn supports regional jobs and communities.

Despite the global pandemic, demand remains high for Tasmania's high quality produce both locally, across the country and internationally and this Government is committed to doing everything we can to help

farmers sustainably produce more.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is passionate about supporting Tasmanian businesses, families and communities, and providing the platform to help Tasmania recover from COVID-19 stronger than ever.