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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Supporting Tasmania's next generation of agricultural innovators

Supporting innovation and growth in agriculture is a key part of the Hodgman Liberal Government's long-term plan to grow the value of the State's agriculture sector to \$10 billion by 2050.

I was pleased to attend Sprout Tasmania's In and Out Day, which celebrates the graduates of the Sprout Producer Program, a one-year accreditation and professional development program for small Tasmanian producers.

The Sprout Producers Program provides training and education to equip small-scale farmers with the practical skills needed to establish sustainable and profitable enterprises.

Sprout Tasmania, a not for profit organisation, also helps to connect local producers with retailers, restaurants and markets, creating networks and value adding through agri-tourism.

The Hodgman Liberal Government recognises agriculture as the corner stone of Tasmania's economy, which is why we are supporting Sprout with \$75,000 over three years under the Strategic Industry Partnership Program to drive growth and innovation across the Tasmanian agri-food sector.

The Strategic Industry Partnership Program is funding a diverse range of projects with farmers, growers and fishers to support industry growth, job creation and prosperity in our rural communities.

Projects range from supporting those in the industry to advance their technical and business management skills that can assist on farm production and develop markets, developing digital technologies to increase operational efficiencies, and ensuring good communication and collaboration between farmers or fishers to promote and grow their industry.

By working with industry and investing in these projects, the Hodgman Government is supporting production and management efficiencies, driving access to new markets and supporting regional communities into the future.