



29 January 2020

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

## Support for Tasmania's rock lobster industry

The Gutwein majority Liberal Government will enable Tasmanian rock lobster quota to be rolled over into the next year quota to support fishers impacted by local restrictions on movement in China, associated with the coronavirus outbreak.

This means fishers who have not caught the permitted amount due to the sudden market changes will be able to add this shortfall to the amount they can catch next quota year, which starts 1 March.

The Government has also approved the payment of annual fees and levies by instalment, to help relieve immediate pressure.

Tasmania's southern rock lobster fishery is a major Tasmanian industry and the Government is working very closely with the Tasmanian Rock lobster Fisherman's Association, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council, processors and the Australian Government to better understand the market impacts on local businesses and measures of support.

The Government's trade unit will work with industry to explore new markets and expand existing markets.

Rural Business Tasmania, through its rural financial counselling services, can assist industry members in hardship, while Rural Alive and Well's outreach services are also available to the sector.

Consumers are reminded that commercially caught rock lobster can be bought directly from fishers and from seafood outlets and must have a government issued tag attached and you should be issued a receipt.

The Tasmanian Government is working closely with the Federal Government and relevant authorities in relation to Coronavirus to ensure a proactive approach is in place.