



19 November 2018

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Supporting Rural Business Tasmania

The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to our partnership with Rural Business Tasmania (RBT) to ensure farmers and agricultural producers have the skills and supports they need for their businesses to thrive.

Our *Taking Agriculture to the next level* Policy committed \$800,000 to RBT over four years including \$595,000 in new funding over the forward estimates.

This funding will allow RBT to provide Rural Financial Counselling Services and Farm Business Mentoring to support Tasmanian farmers with business skills, financial literacy, planning and debt mediation.

Agriculture is a key pillar of the Tasmanian economy, and we have a target to increase the value of Tasmania's agricultural sector to \$10 billion per year by 2050.

Of the more than \$150 million that we pledged during the election to reach this target, \$70 million has been directed towards extending irrigation schemes, and more than \$30 million will go towards ongoing and increased support for research and development purposes.

I would like to thank RBT for the important role they play supporting and advancing our farmers and rural communities.

Our targets for agriculture include:

- *Double the amount of water available through Tasmanian Irrigation Schemes by 2025.*
- *Grow the annual farm gate value of the agricultural sector to \$10 billion per year by 2050.*

See all of our targets at: <https://www.tas.liberal.org.au/sites/default/files/BuildingYourFuture.pdf>