



6 June 2019

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

## Supporting Tasmania's bee industry

The Hodgman Liberal Government places a high value on Tasmania's honey and pollination industries, which is why we committed \$750,000 over three years for the Bee Industry Futures program to help the sector manage the impacts of recent challenging seasons and build for the future.

We recognise that the value of the sector extends well beyond the production of world-class honey. It is also vital for pollination of our valuable fruit and vegetables crops.

Tasmanian producers have faced a specific challenges in recent seasons including bushfires, which have damaged hives and restricted access to leatherwood and other flowering species.

We have taken action to support the industry, working closely with stakeholders including the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association, the Tasmanian Crop Pollination Association, the TFGA, Fruit Growers Tasmania and other pollination-dependent industries to make a range of assistance available, including:

- Up to 12 months fee relief for leases and licenses where hive sites are on crown land;
- Providing up to \$150,000 to help Tasmania's commercial beekeepers meet operational costs;
- Funding over 12 months for a part-time Industry Development Officer to help recovery, and strategic growth; and
- Investing \$40,000 to fund joint scientific research by the University of Tasmania and Collaborative Research Corporation into medicinal and other beneficial qualities of honey.

The Government remains committed to ensuring the maximum practical access to Leatherwood and other plants like Manuka within the constraints of the relevant statutory management plans.

We will continue working closely with industry to create a clear vision to ensure a strong, sustainable future for the Tasmanian honey and pollination industries.