



24 September 2019

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

More Biosecurity officers to protect Tasmania

The Hodgman majority Liberal Government is committed to strengthening Tasmania's biosecurity systems to protect our primary industries, environment, community and the tourism sector.

Tasmania's biosecurity defences are being boosted with the recruitment of 20 new Biosecurity staff as part of this Government's Securing our Borders initiative.

The new officers will be protecting our borders, inspecting high risk produce and imported freight during peak periods to reduce the risk of diseases, and pests like Queensland Fruit Fly, entering the state.

The Government has also acted to improve biosecurity preparedness and emergency response capability by appointing a Coordinator (Biosecurity Emergency Preparedness, Response & Recovery) to work with industry to deliver biosecurity education, training and support programs.

Additional biosecurity investment will be supported by changes to the partial cost recovery of inspection service fees from 2019-20 onwards. The fees are below full cost recovery for the service with the Tasmanian Government continuing to fund the balance of the cost.

The Hodgman majority Liberal Government takes biosecurity very seriously, and we are backing our words with real action to protect Tasmanian primary industries and our environment.

Since 2014 we have consistently delivered additional funding for biosecurity and we are ensuring our biosecurity system continues to respond to the risks and changing demands.

Biosecurity is a top priority for this government, which is why we recently delivered the landmark Biosecurity Act which lays the foundation for Tasmania's biosecurity for the next 30 years. This is in addition to doubling the number of detector dog teams, and investing in additional officers, vital biosecurity infrastructure including diagnostic laboratories, border signage, and to tackle pests and weeds.

Good biosecurity relies on the community, industry and government working together, and more officers carrying out more inspections to help maintain a strong biosecurity system and protect Tasmania's trade, economy, environment and lifestyle.