



13 February 2020

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Milestone for Tasmania's biosecurity

The Tasmanian majority Liberal Government is committed to maintaining and expanding our world-class biosecurity systems that protect and underpin our \$2.4 billion agriculture and seafood sector, \$3.09 billion a year agricultural exports and \$3.03 billion tourism industry.

The new Biosecurity Advisory Committee, an independent advisory body, will play a role in guiding Government strategies and policy in respect to biosecurity, working with industry and providing advice to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water.

The Biosecurity Advisory Committee met for the first time today following their appointment late last year under Tasmania's new landmark *Biosecurity Act 2019*.

This Act represents one of the most significant reforms of Tasmania's primary industry and environmental laws in decades, and replaces seven separate and out-dated Acts into a single, modern, fit-for-purpose piece of legislation.

Committee members gathered in Launceston for a comprehensive update about Tasmania's biosecurity system, and implementation of the *Act*, and an opportunity to map out the Committee's work for the year ahead.

The formation of the Committee is an important milestone and one of the key initial tasks required for the effective implementation of Tasmania's new biosecurity legislation.

The group will play an important role in providing independent, expert advice to myself and to the Secretary of DPIPW, which will help us continue to build a more rigorous and effective biosecurity system for the State.

Tasmania's reputation as a premium producer of agricultural and seafood products, and as a leading tourism destination, is reliant on an effective biosecurity system.

As pressure on our biosecurity system increases, it is important that we continually review and refine our processes to protect our way of life and prevent unwanted pests and diseases.

Importantly, good biosecurity is a shared responsibility relying on the community, industry and Government working together, and remaining vigilant.

For more information on the Biosecurity Advisory Committee visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/bac