



18 August 2020

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

New seasonal job opportunities for Tasmanians

The Tasmanian Government recognises that COVID-19 is presenting some unique challenges to our agricultural sector and impacting seasonal workers ahead of the upcoming planting, production and harvesting season.

Agriculture is a pillar of the state's economy, with a farm gate value of \$1.64 billion (2018-19) increasing to a processed food value of \$4.86 billion for land-based agriculture.

To address these challenges, the Government has been working in partnership with our agricultural employers and the industry to attract and retain an effective seasonal workforce and identify new employment opportunities for Tasmanians.

From spring through to summer is the peak picking and processing time for harvest workers in horticulture and viticulture and we need to position our agricultural businesses so that they can adapt and respond to these labour force disruptions.

Today, we are announcing that in partnership with industry we have developed an Agricultural Workforce Resilience Package which will help mobilise Tasmanians looking for work to help with the upcoming planting, production and harvest seasons.

This package will include a local agricultural jobs campaign to encourage Tasmanians to consider new career options and participate with this EOI process.

Other aspects of the package includes support for industry resilience, promotion and targeted development of skills and training, an industry sponsored boost to regional transport, extending the Farmpoint one-stop point of contact for primary producers and assistance to ensure agricultural employers are workforce ready.

This Agricultural Workforce Resilience Package also addresses several recommendations from the PESRAC Report to support industry to attract and retain local workers to help meet immediate labour needs for the coming harvest season.

As the Premier has said - now is the time to produce local, harvest local and buy local.

The Tasmanian Government has a target to grow the value of state's agricultural production to \$10 billion by 2050 and mobilising Tasmania's workforce to boost these pillar industries will be vital as our economy responds and rebuilds in future months.