

# Guy Barnett MP

Minister for Primary Industries and Water  
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TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE



Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water  
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## Strong support for our potato farmers

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is the strongest supporter of our agricultural sector, which is why we have consistently delivered additional funding for biosecurity to help protect primary producers from weeds, pests and disease.

The Chief Plant Health Manager has approved a conditional exemption to import potatoes from a single South Australian company earlier this year based on the best available evidence and in accordance with agreed terms of biosecurity risk management and trade.

I have spoken with potato farmers and other members of the agricultural community, and I have heard their concerns around this decision.

While the Government has complete confidence in the independence and ability for Biosecurity Tasmania to make this decision, I have asked the Department to look into this matter further and provide an update early next week on the reasoning for the decision.

To be clear, trade between States is not unusual and happens regularly. Tasmania relies heavily on this freedom certification to underpin our own export trade. Whether it be cherries, apples, pears, broccoli, peas, carrots – the same rules apply, and I have confidence in Tasmania's biosecurity system.

By scaremongering on this issue, Shane Broad is undermining and putting interstate trade at risk in favour of his own cheap political interests.