

Guy Barnett MP

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Energy
Minister for Resources
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Liberal Member for Lyons



TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water
10 December 2020

Cressy research farm upgrade to benefit farmers and agribusiness

Today it was my pleasure to attend an open day at the Cressy Research and Development Station, which has supported a wide range of Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) activities over the past 80 years, including pasture and cereal breeding, livestock nutrition and lamb production.

The site is used for protected berry cropping and high-value pasture seed production as well as other grazing and livestock activities, and I welcome the local investment from Upper Murray Seeds, the main leaseholder at the site.

The Tasmanian Government is delivering on its \$6 million investment to modernise our agricultural research farms, including \$750,000 for infrastructure upgrades at the Cressy Research and Development Station.

The funding will enable upgrades to core infrastructure including electricity and pipelines for irrigation, drainage works and training facilities at the site to benefit the industry now and into the future.

This kind of private sector partnership drives industry-led RD&E that makes a real difference on-farm and ensures new technologies, sustainable growth and productivity improvements for Tasmanian farmers.

It builds on our recently announced *Plan for Tasmania's Research Farm Capacity* that outlines how public research farms will be utilised for the benefit of Tasmanian farmers and agribusiness, as well as setting out funding principles and criteria for investment in research farm assets, infrastructure, facilities and equipment.

Our investments in these farms, guided by the principles set out in the plan, will ensure our research farms are ready to conduct the research, development, training, education and extensions needed to continue to grow agriculture in our State and achieve a farm gate value of \$10 billion by 2050.