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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Dairy a shining light in Tasmania's booming agriculture sector

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is partnering with industry to turbo-charge support for dairy and agriculture as sectors that are leading the nation in production and confidence.

The dairy industry continues to deliver for Tasmania with the sector having an extremely bright future on the back of good opening milk contracts and a great lead into winter.

Milk production was at a record high last year and recent data suggests Tasmania is on track to equal or break that record. Solid milk prices have also been announced by all Tasmanian-based milk processors for the coming 2021-22 season.

Backing our industry, the Tasmanian Government recently delivered a signed Deed to co-invest \$5 million with the University of Tasmania towards a \$7.4 million upgrade of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture's research farms at Elliott and Forthside.

The investment will convert the Elliott dairy facility into a SMART Farm to deliver, with partner Dairy Australia, a new \$7 million research program with a focus on research, development and extension to sustainably grow Tasmania's dairy industry.

Today I joined the Dairy Industry Association of Australia at its annual Tasmanian Branch conference in Launceston where the important role of dairy was recognised as part of our bold target to grow the farm gate value of Tasmanian agriculture to \$10 billion by 2050.

To further support dairy and our other agricultural sectors the first Agribusiness Insights report was released today which captures key agricultural indicators, emerging opportunities and trends to inform industry development and government policy.

Developed in partnership with industry, Agribusiness Insights will be an ongoing publication released annually after each peak production season. The report is an initiative under the Competitiveness of Tasmanian Agriculture White Paper and aims to help industry respond to change and unlock new opportunities.

This will further support Tasmania's strong growth in agriculture. Recent ABS commodity figures showed that the total value of agriculture in Tasmania for 2019-20 was up by 14.7 per cent (\$240 million) compared to the national figure of just 0.4 per cent.

The 2018-19 Tasmanian Agri-Food ScoreCard, released in November 2020, revealed the value of Tasmania's agricultural production increased in value in 2018-19 to \$1.90 billion, and latest results from Rabobank reported that 45 per cent of Tassie farmers are tipping farming conditions to improve in the next 12 months with prospects of another big production year.

The Tasmanian Government is the strongest supporter of agriculture and has invested almost \$50 million to accelerate Tasmania's agriculture industry, which provides thousands of Tasmanian jobs and important support for rural and regional communities.

The new Agribusiness Insights is on the DPIPWE website: www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/insights