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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

DPIPWE has played a critical role in safeguarding Tasmania

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment has played a critical role in Tasmania's response to COVID-19 and keeping Tasmanians safe while also supporting industry and businesses respond to the challenges of the pandemic.

Biosecurity Tasmania officers in the Department continued to provide exceptional service in the traditional areas of plant and animal biosecurity, while simultaneously working hard to safeguard Tasmania's borders.

As part of this response, the Department also developed and implemented the Tas e-Travel application. Since its introduction, more than 1 million people have registered their travel and contact details, contributing to the State's defence against COVID-19.

DPIPWE's annual report tabled today also outlines important initiatives specifically aimed at supporting Tasmania's food security such as the Agricultural Workforce Resilience program which helped ensure that the State's crops were harvested and fruits and vegetables picked.

Planning to support the development of the Tasmanian Agricultural Precinct in Launceston also began. The Precinct will co-locate industry, Government and the University of Tasmania on a single site, to bring together the best possible skills, industry-relevant research and development and facilitate growth of the industry.

The Department also focused on delivering a diverse range of Tasmanian Government commitments to invest in Tasmania's communities, businesses, and the State's natural and cultural heritage values.

This included upgrading infrastructure in our parks and reserves, supporting Aboriginal policy reform, supporting the sustainable management of our water resources, increasing investment in recreational fishing industries, and developing threatened species and waste and resource recovery strategies.

The Department's Annual Report is available at: <https://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/reporting/annual-report>.