

Guy Barnett MP

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



Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

9 March 2022

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Bill to support Offshore Marine Aquaculture Research passes

The Tasmanian Government's *Living Marine Resources Management Amendment (Aquaculture Research) Bill 2021* has now passed the Legislative Council and will help establish a framework to deliver offshore aquaculture in Commonwealth waters off the coast of Tasmania.

The Amendment Bill will enable marine aquaculture research in Commonwealth Waters adjoining Tasmanian State Waters. With the passing of the Bill the Tasmanian Government will now focus on working with the Commonwealth to establish a 'fisheries management arrangement' which will provide for aquaculture research permits to be granted and managed under Tasmanian legislation.

This is a key step in supporting sustainable growth of Tasmania's world-leading salmon industry through the 10-year Salmon Plan, to be in place by January 1, 2023. A core principle of this plan is to develop new research and innovation programs and to focus on offshore salmon farming.

Importantly, it is intended that any marine aquaculture research would only be for fixed-term, limited-scale activities and in a defined research area.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Tasmanian and Commonwealth governments supports the implementation of the National Aquaculture Strategy and aligns with the new 10-year Salmon Plan.

Both the Tasmanian and Australian Governments have joined with other stakeholders to invest in the Blue Economy CRC to conduct research and development into future offshore industries.

The Bill will help also enable research to be conducted, initially by the Blue Economy CRC, as a first step towards potential future industry that benefits Tasmania.

This opens up a new frontier to explore opportunities for growth in Tasmania's already successful and sustainable aquaculture industry – not just salmon, but also other sectors including seaweed and shellfish.

The Tasmanian Government is a proud supporter of our world class a sustainable aquaculture industry and the thousands of jobs it supports, most in regional communities.