



20 January 2017

Guy Barnett, Minister for Building & Construction

Aquaculture Feed Mill to Grow Jobs in the North

More than 20 new jobs will be created through an up to \$50 million investment in an aquaculture feed mill at Westbury in Northern Tasmania.

The Hodgman Liberal Government's first priority is jobs and that's why we are backing the Ridley Corporation Limited's development with a \$2 million grant.

This will assist Ridley to build a state of the art, fit for purpose feed mill, manufacturing and supplying feed primarily to the aquaculture industry in Tasmania, as well as interstate and in New Zealand.

The Liberal Government is committed to backing Tasmanian aquaculture and this mill will help to support the industry.

Local agriculture is also expected to benefit due to the additional demand for locally grown grains used in the feed.

The project will provide work for up to 250 contractors and drive an \$85 million boost to the Tasmanian economy in the construction phase alone.

Once operational, the mill will directly provide upwards of 20 full-time equivalent jobs, plus more indirectly, and inject about \$21 million a year into the local economy.

This investment by Ridley – supported by the Liberal Government – is a major coup for Westbury and the wider Northern Tasmanian community, and is also a great vote of confidence in this region and in our State.

Importantly, the Office of Coordinator-General has worked extensively with Ridley Corporation over a long period of time to help facilitate this project.

The Government's funding contribution is being provided from the Business and Jobs Attraction Initiative, which was announced in the 2015-16 Budget.

The project represents exactly what the Initiative was designed for – attracting businesses to the State that generate sustainable ongoing economic activity that creates new jobs in Tasmania.