

# Taking Seafood To the Next Level



## A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Support our East Coast Rock Lobster and Abalone fisheries through stock rebuilding strategies
- Lower red tape and increase productivity through new digital management tools for commercial fisheries
- Ensure continued access to high value export markets for our shellfish sector
- Increase environmental regulation of the Salmon Industry



## Investing More into Seafood

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will continue our strong support for our world class wild catch and farmed seafood sector with a \$26.15 million investment package for the sector.

Our goal is to ensure the long-term future of this sector, which is worth around \$911 million to Tasmania and supports thousands of jobs, mostly in regional communities.

### East Coast Rock Lobster Translocation

We will extend the successful East Coast Rock Lobster Translocation Program, which is helping to rebuild our East Coast Rock Lobster fishery through the relocation of healthy populations from the South-West. An extension of the program for a further 4 years is a win-win for commercial and recreational fishers on the East Coast.

### Protecting and Growing our Abalone Fishery

The Tasmanian abalone fishery is the world's largest sustainable wild abalone resource and the fishery supports more than 800 jobs.

If re-elected, we will work with the industry to divert 2% of current royalties to establish an Abalone Industry Reinvestment Fund (AIRF) at a cost of \$5.1 million.

The AIRF will:

- support projects to reduce the the *Centrostephanus Urchin* (Long Spined Sea Urchin) population on the East Coast.
- Support projects to increase Abalone stock rates, including larval seeding.

We will also maintain funding to the Abalone Industry Development Trust Fund with \$200,000 annually for 4 years to enable the wild abalone industry to develop new market opportunities and increase the value of its catch.

### Tackling *Centrostephanus*

*Centrostephanus* urchins, or Long Spined Sea Urchins, are now present in Tasmanian East Coast waters and pose a threat to East Coast Rock Lobster and Abalone fisheries, as well as the broader marine environment. We are committed to reducing this threat, through developing new markets and industry partnerships to subsidise the catch.

## Relevant Targets

**#8:** All fin-fish farming to be 100% compliant with environmental regulations

For the full list of our Targets: [www.buildingyourfuture.com.au](http://www.buildingyourfuture.com.au)

## Why Tasmania Needs This

Tasmania has world class wild caught and farmed seafood sector and we want to keep it that way.

The sector is growing successfully and sustainably, with the gross value of production increasing by 11% to \$913 million in 2015-16.

Our fisheries and seafood sector makes an important contribution to the Tasmanian economy, and is a significant job provider in regional areas.

We have a vision to grow the total value of Tasmania's agricultural production, including seafood, tenfold to \$10 billion per annum by 2050.



## Investing More into Seafood

### Stronger Environmental Regulation of Salmon Farming

The salmon industry is a great Tasmanian success story having grown from nothing over the past 30 years to now support over 5000 jobs, mostly in regional areas and bring over \$700 million into the Tasmanian economy.

Our focus has been on the sustainable growth of the industry and we have made the most substantial improvements to the industry in decades, including:

- significantly strengthening the environmental regulation of the industry;
- transferred responsibility for regulation to the independent Environment Protection Authority;
- legislated a Fin Fish Farming Environmental Regulation Bill (which was supported by all sides of politics), which ensures tough penalties and strong environmental management; and
- released a Sustainable Industry Growth Plan for the industry that, for the first time, sets out a plan for sustainable growth and where that growth will and won't occur.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will continue to implement our plan for sustainable growth including boosting resources to the EPA to establish a Salmon Farming Monitoring and Compliance unit within the EPA. Further, we will adopt a "zero tolerance" approach to marine debris, ensuring penalties apply for operators who are not taking responsibility for cleaning up after themselves.

Further information about our plan for sustainable growth can be found here: <http://dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/salmonplan.pdf>

Implementation of the Plan will be funded from existing resources and industry levies.

### Our Record in Government

The Hodgman Liberal Government's strong track record on delivering for Tasmania's seafood industry is available for all to see.

Copies of *Tasmania's Sustainable Agri-food Plan* and also the *Tasmania's Sustainable Agri-food Plan Update* are available on the DPIIWE website <http://dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Agri-Food%20Plan%202016-2018.pdf>

Some of our achievements include:

- Transferring regulation of the salmon industry to the independent Environment Protection Authority (EPA).
- Implementing a levy on salmon licences to help fund marine farm development.



## Investing More into Seafood

### No New Marine Protected Areas

Resource security and employment is vital for investment and development in Tasmania's valuable seafood industry.

There are already more than 135 000 hectares of Tasmania's coastal waters contained within Marine Protected Areas.

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will maintain a moratorium on any new Marine Protected Areas within State waters over which it has jurisdiction.

Effective fisheries and marine farming planning and management systems are in place to ensure the sustainability of Tasmania's valuable marine resources.

### More Information for Seafood Consumers

Consumers are becoming increasingly more savvy and aware about food and expect to know more information about the seafood sold in our restaurants and shops.

If re-elected, we will work with the seafood industry and the hospitality sector to identify strategies to educate consumers about where their seafood comes from and help them make an informed choice.

### Growing Our Shellfish Industry

The Hodgman Liberal Government understands how vital it is to maintain industry access to valuable export markets for our shellfish sector.

If re-elected, we will provide \$400,000 over four years to partner with the oyster and shellfish industry to coordinate industry development under the Shellfish Market Access Program (Shell-MAP), helping protect our export markets and enhance Tasmania's reputation for quality seafood.

We will invest \$400,000 over four years for the sector to enhance the real time monitoring sensor network, a vital initiative to protect oyster and shellfish farm biosecurity and ensure continued market access.

## Our Record in Government

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- Launching the Sustainable Industry Growth Plan for the Salmon Industry so that Tasmanians can be certain about the location of future salmon farming.
- Over \$1.2 million to establish a biotoxin testing laboratory in Tasmania servicing shellfish growers and the broader seafood industry to uphold seafood safety and product integrity.
- Successfully rolling out the Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) relief package including fee relief, concessional loans and industry support for our oyster and shellfish industry as they recover from the outbreak.



## Investing more into Seafood

### Modern, digital fisheries management

Tasmania is fortunate to have some of the best fisheries in the world and it important to ensure that their management is backed by the latest technology.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will support the transitioning of commercial fishing into the digital age through best practice use of fisheries management technology.

We will invest a further \$5 million to ensure the Fisheries Integrated Licensing and Management System (FILMS) has the capacity for automated real time data transfer, delivering significant benefits by reducing red tape and improving quota management and facilitating digital licensing and reporting for commercial fishers.

### Supporting the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will increase funding for the world-class IMAS to \$14 million over five years. This funding will provide for additional fishing industry-relevant research and development supporting new sustainable fisheries opportunities.

### Supporting Safety and Mental Health

Ensuring that seafood industry workers come home safe at the end of the day is of paramount importance. A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will provide funding over \$150,000 over three years to assist the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC) improve maritime safety.

We will also provide Rural Alive and Well (RAW) with \$1.84 million over two years and continue to work with RAW to deliver a lasting model for improving mental health and well being across rural Tasmania, including in the seafood sector.

Further we will invest \$800,000 over 4 years for Rural Financial Counselling Services and Farm Business Mentoring delivered by Rural Business Tasmania supporting Tasmanian farmers and the seafood sector with business skills, financial literacy, planning and debt mediation.

## Our Record in Government

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- Investing over \$2 million to support safety training for the seafood sector for another three years in partnership with the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council and Seafood Training Tasmania



## Investing more into Seafood

### Support for TARFish

TARFish is the Government recognised, fully independent peak body representing recreational marine fishers in Tasmania.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide funding of \$620,000 to TARFish over four years to support their important work to represent the interest of recreational marine fishers right around Tasmania.

### Cost

The total cost of our additional investment in the wild caught and farmed seafood sector will be \$26.15 million over five years.

### Labor Green Record

The simple fact is that Labor and the Greens have never cared about our recreational fishers or our seafood sector and its workers.

The Greens would happily shutdown our commercial seafood sector if they had their way, including Salmon farming.

Labor has a rich history of doing deals with the Greens at the expense of our Tasmanian industry. They did it with Forestry, and they cannot be trusted not to do it again with Salmon.

Labor and the Greens have an appalling record on destroying jobs, not standing up for our regional communities and not supporting the thousands of jobs that rely on a sustainable Tasmanian seafood industry.

Only the Hodgman Liberal Government has a track record of proven support for fishers, the seafood sector and our regional communities.