

Supporting a world class Tasmanian fisheries and seafood sector

Building a Tasmania we
can all be proud of



Change
for a brighter
future

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The Plan to build a modern economy,
to create jobs

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A world class Tasmanian fisheries and seafood sector

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will support our wild capture fisheries, both commercial and recreational, by providing them with resource security and improved biosecurity, and by removing bureaucratic obstacles to sustainable growth of the sectors.

We will also strongly support all sectors of the aquaculture industry to grow sustainably and to maximise their commercial return through the further development of our high value brand, and a strong biosecurity culture.

Tasmania's economy has been built on our competitive strengths, including aquaculture and fisheries, which for generations have created the jobs and wealth needed to fund our essential services.

Tasmania is nationally and internationally renowned as a producer of excellent seafood and the industry provides a massive contribution to the State's economy.

Despite this, the Labor-Green experiment has abandoned what it calls the "old industries" in a futile search for the next "big thing" or silver bullet. It has destroyed forestry, and is now clearly targeting aquaculture and fisheries in the State.

A cooperative and respectful relationship between all sectors

We will usher in a new era that will see each and every part of our fisheries and seafood industries, including recreational, embrace a mature and respectful relationship with each other. This will result in the sharing of resources from our pristine marine environment in a transparent and responsible manner, backed by science.

The recreational fishing sector will benefit from a major social and economic study which will quantify the value of this sector to the Tasmanian economy and community, in order to place them at equal status with other sectors in public policy considerations.

Moratorium on Marine Protected Areas

Resource security is vital for investment and jobs in our wild fisheries sector. Currently, more than 135,000 hectares of Tasmania's coastal waters are within Marine Protected Areas, equating to nearly eight per cent of coastal water.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will impose a moratorium on any new Marine Protected Areas in the State's waters.

Priority status for coastal sewerage and storm water upgrades

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will engage with TasWater, the Local Government sector and the Environmental Protection Authority to ensure that, as much as possible, the rollout of sewerage and storm water upgrades into the future take into account those areas where the current schemes could affect the pristine status of our coastal waters.

Tasmanian Shellfish industry

Tasmania's international reputation for premium food products relies heavily on the commercial shellfish industry. A very real threat to the industry and Tasmania's clean brand is the potential for biological contamination, naturally occurring or otherwise.

The Tasmanian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program, a long-standing, cost-sharing partnership between industry and government, plays a critical role in managing risks to the shellfish industry.

In addition to our commitment to invest an extra \$900,000 to boost the State's biosecurity frontline to protect our agricultural industry, aquaculture and wild fisheries, a majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide an extra \$200,000 per year for three years to the Tasmanian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program.

Salmonid Industry

The Tasmanian salmonid industry continues to develop its status as an icon industry for the State, and with many Australians changing their eating habits to include more premium, farmed Tasmanian salmon and trout in their diets, the industry has a bright future.

The value of this industry has increased markedly over the past five years, with aspirations to grow to a billion dollar industry for Tasmania.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will partner with the salmonid industry to develop a \$1 billion industry.

We will provide **\$500,000 to the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment budget** towards the project to construct the Fish Health Unit Centre of Excellence project at Mount Pleasant, which will allow for a world's best practice aquatic animal health facility for aquaculture specifically, and the seafood sector more broadly.

We will also provide **\$500,000 to IMAS to increase the capacity and capability to improve Amoebic Gill Disease**, nutrition and genetic research in the industry.

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A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will work with the Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association to identify further funding options to progress these two initiatives.

Further, we will reduce red tape and improve regulatory processes in the salmonid industry, and maintain strict quarantine and biosecurity measures through our investment of an extra \$900,000 to boost the State's biosecurity frontline.

Securing the future of the iconic Rock Lobster fishery

A majority Liberal government will immediately move to secure the long term future of the commercial and recreational rock lobster industry in Tasmania by providing \$100,000 per annum for three years towards a Rock Lobster translocation project.

The Southern Rock Lobster fishery is one of Tasmania's most important and iconic fisheries, both for the commercial sector and the recreational sector.

However, while the fishery is well managed, in waters off the East Coast of Tasmania the spread of long spined sea urchin is having a severe impact on rock lobster numbers.

This project, which is backed by science, will inject \$47 million in capitalised value to the Tasmanian economy and secure the jobs of around 500 Tasmanians who work in the rock lobster industry.

Developmental fisheries

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will encourage the progression of more developmental fisheries in order to allow a broader range of options for commercial fishers, particularly in the area of value-adding to low-value species.

Commercial fishing businesses

Under a majority Hodgman Liberal Government, all fishery management plans, and the imposition of regulatory changes, will take into account the consideration of the standard constraints on all commercial operators, such as security of access, the cost burden of over-regulation, and cash flow issues.

We will also help to transition commercial fishing in Tasmania into the digital age, aiming at world's best practice for both regulators and commercial operators, including regulatory compliance through the use of modern IT systems.

Recreational fishing sector

The Labor-Green Government has cut this sector adrift by appropriating recreational license fees into the consolidated fund, and strangling the peak body through a lack of funds, and the inability preventing it from engaging in public debate.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will set up the recreational fishing sector as a strong, mature and valued participant in the fisheries and seafood industry.

We will stop the misappropriation of funds originally intended for the Fishwise Trust, and restore the Fishwise Trust to the previous method of funding from recreational licence fees, over a period, in order to fund research and development for recreational fisheries, as was originally intended. This will be achieved through an initial allocation of \$200,000.

Socio-economic study

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$50,000 to fund a major independent socio-economic study into the Tasmanian recreational fishing sector to ensure that it receives recognition as an industry in its own right by all levels of government and industry.

A strong, new peak body

TARFish, the peak body for recreational fishing, has been deliberately held back from developing into a mature and professional representative body of all recreational fishing interests. It has been held back by the Labor-Green Government. It has not been allowed to contribute strongly to public debates in defence of the recreational fishing sector.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will work with TARFish to develop a sustainable business plan for the new-look peak body.

A new constitution, which provides for contemporary democracy along the lines of other fisheries sector peak bodies, will be developed, allowing anyone involved in recreational fishing in Tasmania the ability to be elected to positions.

We will also examine the arrangements for representation on government and industry panels to ensure that the peak body shares influence with the commercial sector in these areas.

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No saltwater rod and line licence

The Labor-Green Government is actively considering establishing licensing regimes for saltwater rod and line recreational fishing in Tasmania.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will not implement a licence fee for saltwater rod and line recreational fishing in Tasmania.

Inland Fisheries

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will continue to recognise the strong stakeholder support for the Inland Fisheries Commission and the strong management of the inland fishery in general.

We will progress consideration of the need for an increase in fresh water angling opportunities in the south of the State, with a view to the possible establishment of a Four Springs style dedicated impoundment, close to population areas, to increase participation in this form of recreation.

Costings

\$1,850,000 over four years (the securing the future of the iconic Rock Lobster fishery and the boost to the State's biosecurity frontline policies have been previously announced and costed).