



15 November 2019

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Celebrating 25 years of women in agriculture

The Hodgman majority Liberal Government recognises the vital contribution women make to rural industries and communities.

The efforts of women in agriculture are in the spotlight tonight (Fri 15 Nov) at the Tasmanian Women in Agriculture (TWiA) 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner.

Formed in 1994, Tasmanian Women in Agriculture is now recognised as one of Tasmania's largest voluntary organisations for rural women seeking connections, support and development opportunities. Always a voice for cultural change, TWiA has ensured recognition and pressed for seats at decision-making tables.

Since its inception, the number of women running rural businesses and participating on high-level boards and committees has increased, largely due to the development opportunities TWiA has provided, especially in training and leadership.

As part of the Government's commitment to supporting emerging female leaders, we are providing TwiA with \$120,000 over four years and continue to provide direct and in-kind support.

The contribution of TWiA was recognised through the recent Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group Agricultural Excellence Award for Service to the Agricultural Community and also earned TWiA a place on the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women in 2013, the only organisation recognised for its contribution to agriculture.

TWiA and the department, through AgriGrowth Tasmania, continue to work closely to provide leadership and skills development for rural women. This includes through supporting programs such as the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award in Tasmania.

Congratulations to all those involved with Tasmanian Women in Agriculture on such a milestone achievement.

Providing development opportunities for rural women benefits individual industries and builds capacity for whole communities, contributing to achieving the Hodgman majority Liberal Government's goal to grow the farm gate value of agriculture in Tasmania to \$10 billion by 2050.