



COMMENT || GUY BARNETT

Future direction for sustainable salmon

TASMANIA's salmon industry is globally recognised for its commitment to innovation and sustainability, which is why the government is supporting its continued journey through a new 10-year plan.

Our salmon industry has led the world in many areas - in certification, water monitoring, vaccination and disease management, as well as cutting edge technology. It is worth nearly \$1 billion to our economy and it supports thousands of jobs.

The government has supported enhancements in regulation, transparency and biosecurity practices, while the industry has a history of innovation and a commitment to

continuous improvement. The industry has state-of-the-art feeding centres, delivering operational, fish welfare and environmental benefits, and a commitment to climate change adaptation. It holds global leading certification, has among the lowest stocking densities in the world, and a commitment to fish welfare, with strong vaccination and disease management strategies.

However, this is a government that firmly believes it has a responsibility to foster the regulatory environment and to support ongoing improvements as we look to the future. The new plan will be underpinned by the following principles:

1. There will be no net increase in leased

farming areas in Tasmanian waters noting an immediate 12-month moratorium will be put in place to enable existing exploration permits to be considered in the context of the plan;

2. We will develop new research and innovation programs to support salmon farming further off shore in deep waters, including Commonwealth waters, and to increase salmon farming on shore in land based systems;
3. We will ensure world's best practices through continuous improvement in regulation and transparency, and review fees and charges to ensure full cost recovery and an appropriate return to the

Tasmanian community; and

4. Separation of the Environment Protection Authority from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment will further enhance its role as the independent environmental regulator. Additional positions will be created to support compliance, including a Director of Fin Fish Compliance.

Over the next 12 months, the plan will be developed and we will engage with industry and the community to identify new long-term actions that support our vision for a sustainable industry.

|| Guy Barnett is the Minister for Primary Industries and Water

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