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Tasmanian Salmon Industry Ahead of Legislative Council Recommendations

The Tasmanian Salmon Growers Association (TSGA) is pleased the Legislative Council Sub-Committee has released its report into the Tasmanian salmon industry, some two and a half years after submissions first closed.

TSGA CEO Sue Grau said the Tasmanian salmon industry was innovative, agile, and world-leading and many of the recommendations specifically directed at the industry have already been implemented by members over the past three years.

“For example, our pursuit of RAS hatcheries, the transparent release of operational data via publicly available Sustainability Dashboards and development of a Marine Debris Code of Practice were all in place before the Committee began.

“Our industry is driven and regulated by science-based evidence, so the Committee’s call for science-based decisions regarding all aspects of salmon farming is a great reminder of what we are already doing.

Ms Grau said the industry would continue to work collaboratively with independent scientific research providers, including CSIRO, IMAS and the Blue Economy CRC, to ensure the best scientific information available informs any future growth of the industry.

“In terms of environmental management, fish-health practices, biosecurity and sustainability, our industry is recognised around the globe. The legislation, regulation and processes underpinning the salmon industry is robust and most importantly, backed by science, as demonstrated recently at the international salmon symposium.

Ms Grau recognised that people want to know more about the industry.

“That is understandable, we are big employers, and we have significant responsibilities as operators in our public waterways. However, it is critical that any conversation is based on facts, not opinion. The industry provides significant volumes of monitoring and operational data to government and we see the value in transparent communication.

Ms Grau indicated the industry would continue to engage with stakeholders who were seeking genuine, realistic improvements in farming practices.

“We know support for the industry is strong - independent EMRS polling undertaken last year showed more Tasmanians recognising the importance of the aquaculture industry with salmon farming maintaining strong support across the state.

“We work hard to achieve this so our stakeholders; our staff and their families, our suppliers, customers and our communities can continue to be proud of what we’ve achieved.



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“The Tasmanian salmon farming industry is valued at \$1 billion and spends \$500 million on Tasmanian suppliers and businesses. As a vital part of the Tasmanian economy and community, we understand the need for reasonable, appropriate policy, regulation and planning that is informed by the best science; which is exactly what is happening.

Ms Grau said the future landscape of aquaculture in Australia, and particularly Tasmania, offered some very exciting opportunities.

“We have a growing world population and a decline in wild fish stocks, and an enormous amount of ocean. The only way we can actually sustainably feed this growing population is through aquaculture, and the Tasmanian salmon industry is already playing a key role.

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