



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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Focus turns to exports as Tasmania declared fruit fly free

The end of the required period for the Tasmanian mainland to demonstrate freedom from fruit fly is great news for local growers who have been restricted in their trade due to required control zones.

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Richard Colbeck: “It has been a tough year for many growers and the freedom to once again sell product into the local market will be a great relief.

“The next step is to demonstrate our fruit fly freedom to our export markets so that vital trade can resume as well.

“Our trading partners take their biosecurity as seriously as we do – we can now finalise the technical submissions required by our various biosecurity arrangements so that trade can recommence following on from preliminary communications held in the lead up to today.

“Tasmania will have similar conversations with other Australian States who also have biosecurity requirements.

“The good news today has been made possible by the close cooperation between Federal and State Governments, Tasmanian growers and the general public, all of whom have contributed tremendously to stop this outbreak.

“The Liberal National Government delivered \$20 million to ensure that Tasmania had the biosecurity resources needed to tackle the outbreak and were able to increase inspection capacity around the State.

“The funding also supported the Grower Assistance Package so that farmers in the control zones were able to stay afloat during the outbreak.

“Our trading partners internationally have been monitoring our response to fruit fly closely and I am confident that our protocols will stand up to the highest scrutiny and our exporters will have restored access to these lucrative markets soon.

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