

Communiqué #6 – King Island Response Team



Message from the Premier and Minister for Trade and Major Investment, and Chair of the King Island Response Team, Jeremy Rockliff.

For the second time in 2025, the King Island Response Team met in late February.

It was an opportunity to update the representatives of the Island about the work happening to support its people and economy.

While KIRT is a forum to support broad economic development and job creation outside of the King Island Dairy, I also provided an update on that process.

We want to reassure affected workers, farmers and community that we are committed to doing everything we can to support the Dairy and the Island, and I am hopeful that Saputo will deliver a good outcome for the operation and the Island.

Through the Office of the Coordinator General we have undertaken an extensive process since September to assess the Dairy and to identify interested buyers.

Through our focused efforts, we attracted multiple parties that have showed interest.

My government is prepared to work with and support any potential investor that intends to keep the factory doors open and reinvest in the iconic brand.

The February meeting heard about planning by the Department of State Growth for another freight and logistics roundtable, which is likely to be held annually to gain a better picture of the situation on the Island and explore ways to improve access to the Island in all forms.

Work is also ongoing to help maintain and grow the markets for the King Island Dairy should a sale be successful. This includes further discussions with major supermarkets and other existing and new markets

for King Island Dairy products.

Just this week State Growth staff met with members of the tourism and business community for a deep dive into the opportunities to grow the 'plus one' market on the Island. This aims to expand and provide more experiences on the Island to increase visitor numbers alongside those coming for the world class golf.

The meeting also heard more about work to look at the future of the Grassy Port, and the imminent appointment of a consultant to lead that project. They will soon be heading to King Island to meet with the community.

We look forward to seeing what the ongoing work and discussion bring in the next month and will meet again soon.

In the meantime, please take some time to look at the services and programs identified below that provide immediate assistance if required. To discuss any of these, or to find out more information, please contact the team at Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026 or by email at ask@business.tas.gov.au

AgriGrowth Loan Scheme

This scheme provides low interest loans ranging from \$100,000 to \$3 million to Tasmanian farm businesses, agri-food businesses and young farmers looking to progress into their own farm business. It funds projects that otherwise could not be brought forward and/or financed under normal banking arrangements. For more information and to apply, visit the Department of State Growth website here:

https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/grants_and_funding_opportunities/loans/agrigrowth

Business Growth Loan Scheme

Loans ranging from \$100,000 to \$5 million are available to assist Tasmanian businesses in developing, expanding or undertaking new projects, that promote growth in the Tasmanian economy and align with the Tasmanian Government's strategic objectives. The loan term is up to five years. For more information and to apply, visit the Department of State Growth website here:

https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/grants_and_funding_opportunities/loans/business_growth_loan_scheme

Primary Producers Emergency Response Grant Program

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to eligible primary producers statewide to cover costs associated with clean-up and recovery following the August/September 2024 severe weather event. For more information and to apply, visit the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania here:

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/government-and-community-programs/primary-producer-storm-recovery-2024>

Rural Relief Fund

Farming families impacted by disasters such as drought, flood or bushfires may be eligible for a grant of up to \$2,500 as crisis relief through the Rural Relief Fund. For more information and to apply, visit Rural Business Tasmania website here:

<https://www.ruralbusiness Tasmania.org.au/relief-fund>

Access free business advice

Visit <https://www.businessadvice.tas.gov.au/> for information about the Tasmanian Business Advice Service and New Business Support Pilot Program, both of which provide free and independent business advice services.

Free assistance for businesses with employees

Employer of Choice Assist is a free service that provides tailored assistance for businesses who employ staff, including information on how to retain employees and advice to understand Fair Work and industrial relations requirements. For more information and to register visit: <https://tcci.com.au/services/business-services/employer-of-choice-assist>

Multicultural Small Business Grant Program

The Multicultural Small Business Grant Program is still open for applications. This program supports Tasmania's multicultural small businesses in obtaining advice, coaching, training or delivering projects that promote sustainable growth. For more information and to apply visit:

<https://www.business.tas.gov.au/funding/>

Mental health support

There are a range of organisations that provide mental health support and resources for individuals, communities, and small business owners and employees, including Lifeline Tasmania, Beyond Blue, and Rural Alive and Well (RAW). To see the full range of services available, visit the following:

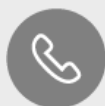
- https://www.business.tas.gov.au/managing/mental_health_and_wellness
- <https://www.lifelinetasmania.org.au/>

- <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Support available through Business Tasmania

The Tasmanian Government is committed to supporting small businesses and offers a range of services through the Department of State Growth's Business Tasmania service. Connect with the Business Tasmania team on 1800 440 026 or via email at ask@business.tas.gov.au or visit <https://www.business.tas.gov.au/home>

Subscribe to Business Tasmania's newsletter at <https://www.business.tas.gov.au/updates> for important information and new funding opportunities.



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