



Media Release

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## **TASSAL LEADING THE INDUSTRY IN INNOVATION THROUGH REMOTE FEEDING CENTRE**

Tassal's \$20 million investment in a world-leading state-of-the-art remote feeding centre is set to deliver operational, fish welfare and environmental benefits to the company.

Tassal Chief Information Officer Matt Leary said the introduction of the innovative technology, involving specialists from the Tasmanian ICT sector, enabled Tassal to feed more efficiently, reduce waste, keep staff safe and produce overall better performance results.

"The technology has been secured in conjunction with local technology partners including Intuit Technologies and Steinsvick," he said.

"It involves connecting high definition cameras to all our active pens, as well as feeding barges through a combination of fibre optic and wireless networks, allowing centralised feeding to the sites remotely from our Hobart head office."

Mr Leary said Tassal was the first company globally to fully embrace this technology and the success of the centre was a result of the collaboration with Tasmanian ICT companies.

Intuit Technology has played a pivotal role in achieving high definition video feed to be transferred from remote operating areas back to the feed centre in Hobart.

Intuit Technology Founder and Executive Director Dane Bignell said there was no network infrastructure in the majority of areas it was working in, and the company had to work from the ground-up.

"A major advantage of this project has been the requirement to implement backbone ICT infrastructure in regional areas, which not only benefits Tassal but potentially other businesses and the broader community," he said.

The technology delivers high definition video-feed to the centre, while also measuring dissolved oxygen levels, water temperature, currents and salinity levels.

Tassal's Head of Aquaculture Mark Asman said as well as allowing the company's feed technicians opportunity to control camera depths and angles, there was capacity to have access to real-time environmental and fish performance data 24/7.

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“Feeding is not as simple as simply distributing pellets at set times during the day,” he said.

“Feeders monitor for environmental conditions and fish behavioural conditions which optimise the feeding environment promoting better feed conversion rates and less wasted feed.”

Mr Asman said the feed centre was performing above expectations, with an 11 per cent lower feed conversion ratio for 2017-year class stock being fed remotely from the centre compared to the previous year.

“We are already experiencing the benefits of this system with growth yield improved and less feed on the seafloor, which is overall better for the environment and more efficient from a business perspective,” he said.

Tassal has also found the technology has given the team a greater capacity to monitor fish health and improve animal welfare.

“The high definition cameras have allowed us to assess how the stock is performing and monitoring their health,” Mr Asman said.

“Having the feeders located in Hobart, alongside our fish welfare and veterinarian staff, ensures collaboration and problem solving occurs immediately when unusual behaviour is observed – allowing a faster response to issues.”

Current feeding from Hobart includes Port Arthur, Okehampton Bay, Southern and Channel regions, with continuous roll out to follow across all sites in coming months.

While the technology delivers significant efficiencies to the business and has revolutionised the feeding and surveillance process, there have been no job losses as a result of its introduction with the company moving to larger, seal proof infrastructure and IT support roles seeing an expansion of jobs in the last financial year of 220 full-time roles.

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