



Media Release
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Tassal welcomes Blue Economy Research Funding

Tassal has welcomed today's Australian Government funding announcement to establish a new Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre to bring together national and international expertise in aquaculture, marine renewable energy and marine engineering as part of a collaborative effort between industry, researchers and the community.

The Blue Economy CRC will be headquartered at the University of Tasmania in Launceston and will focus on five key areas identified by industry: Offshore Engineering and Technology, Seafood and Marine Products, Offshore Renewable Energy Systems, the Environment and Ecosystems and Sustainable Offshore Developments.

Tassal Managing Director and CEO Mark Ryan said his business was proud to be the primary contributor of infrastructure and site usage for the Blue Economy CRC, supporting Tassal and the broader Tasmanian salmon industry in world leading research and development to responsibly transition to off shore farming.

"Our west of Wedge Island site will be amongst the highest energy conditions in the world and this program presents a unique opportunity to transition towards off shore farming in a responsible and integrated manner," he said.

"This isn't just about ensuring pen technology and design is robust enough to handle the exposed conditions, but also about integrating eco-aquaculture programs for other types of plants and animals that might lead to new marine commercial products, such as seaweed extracts or shellfish products.

"Another unique focus will be the development of multi-use farming platforms and related technologies to investigate the generation of power from wind, wave and current technology.

Mr Ryan said combined, the CRC will help to deliver the next generation of sustainable food production from Australian waters through world-leading innovation, right here in Tasmania.

Tassal has already been investing in eco-aquaculture programs, including integrated multi-trophic aquaculture at its sites, researching reducing its environmental footprint through the production of kelp species adjacent to salmon farms, which also present commercial opportunities for other species.

Once Tassal has the appropriate environmental and farming licences for west of Wedge Island it will work in close partnership with the other world leading Blue Economy CRC participants.

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