



21 October 2014

**Attention: News Editors/Chiefs of Staff**

## **TPI MOVES INTO MAJOR NEW GROWTH PHASE**

### **STATEMENT BY TPI ENTERPRISES MANAGING DIRECTOR, JARROD RITCHIE**

Poppy processing company TPI Enterprises (TPI) will relocate its manufacturing base to Victoria to expand its business and meet growing global demand for opiate raw materials.

Relocation of its processing facility will mean TPI can provide certainty the company can fill its contracts to supply opiate raw materials used to make pain relief products.

TPI has not been able, for some time, to ensure supply of raw materials for its Tasmanian processing plant to meet international demand. Part of this problem has been the inability to import poppy straw from sources outside Tasmania.

TPI's processing plant at Cressy will close in coming months, but the Cressy site will continue to receive poppy straw from Tasmanian growers.

A new processing facility will be established in Melbourne and will be operational in time for the next harvest in the first quarter of 2015.

About 50 people are currently employed at the Cressy plant. A number of staff will be offered the opportunity to relocate to Victoria. There will be some positions retained at Cressy to support the storage of poppy straw from Tasmanian poppy growers. There will be a small number of redundancies associated with the relocation.

Those staff not continuing with the company will be paid their full redundancy entitlements and provided assistance to transition to new employment opportunities.

Staff have today been advised of the company's future plans, and discussions will be held with employees in coming days over their future involvement in the business.

Since establishing its operations in Tasmania in 2004, TPI has invested more than \$80 million in the Tasmanian poppy industry and returned more than \$35 million to the farm gate. The company has pioneered a more cost effective and environmentally sustainable production process which sets it apart from other processors.

TPI looks forward to continuing its relationship with Tasmanian growers as well as strengthening relationships with its new growers in Victoria.

Victoria has established a positive policy regulatory framework to enable the development of a poppy growing industry in the State, that allows the company to plan for its future growth with greater certainty while continuing to meet the needs of its international customers.

*Jarrold Ritchie, Managing Director of TPI Enterprises is available for interview.*

*Contact Matt Francis on (03) 6398 5254 or 0467 777 220*