

Go-ahead for poppy processor

TPI Enterprises has been granted a licence by the State Government to manufacture and sell narcotics.

Managing director Jarrod Ritchie made the announcement yesterday, 2½ years after the company made known its desire to become Tasmania's third poppy processor.

He said the decision was a great milestone for the Australian-owned company, its shareholders, the industry and

Tasmanian poppy growers.

New jobs and more investment would follow, Mr Ritchie said.

"TPI is proud to become Australia's third poppy processor, and only the second to be based in Tasmania," he said.

"And we are pleased to be based at Cressy, central to Tasmania's poppy-growing region."

Mt Ritchie said the company's

trial crop of 3ha of poppies from the North-East was being processed into samples requested by potential customers.

"The completion of stage one of our new manufacturing facility at Cressy will allow us to fully develop and optimise our solvent-free process," he said.

"We'll confirm orders, apply (to the regulatory authorities) for the area, just like Tas Alkaloids and GlaxoSmithKline do, and grow to meet those orders."

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