

# Poppy group ready to operate

A COMPANY aiming to be Tasmania's newest poppy processor announced yesterday that the first stage of its Cressy plant was ready for operation.

TPI Enterprises hopes eventually to process as much as 10 tonnes of raw material and employ up to 50 people.

TPI is licensed by the State Government to experiment with material from its 3ha trial plot in the northeast.

TPI Enterprises managing director Jarrod Ritchie said: "The big difference is we won't be using solvents.

Mr Ritchie said TPI's sales efforts would look at taking market share from countries like Spain and Hungary, without stepping on the toes of Tasmanian Alkaloids.

"Tas Alkaloids do things very well," he said.

Tasmania's Poppy Control Board chairman, Peter Patmore, said TPI does not have a licence to grow, and was some way from giving contracts to farmers.

He said the company had to develop its products, under a State Government-issued licence, then get an export licence from the Federal Government, then come back to the State Government for a licence to grow.