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MEDIA RELEASE

TASMANIA WELCOMES THE RV INVESTIGATOR

Federal Labor welcomes Australia's new Marine National Facility ship *RV Investigator* to its home port in Hobart as it is officially commissioned into service.

Labor's commitment of \$120 million for its construction, and preliminary operational funding of \$12 million in 2013-14, are instrumental to the state-of-the-art *RV Investigator* embarking on its maiden voyage in March 2015.

It is importantly the hard work and dedication of the many men and women of the CSIRO who have seen this project become a reality.

It is an exciting day for the international marine science sector and for the whole of Tasmania.

The *RV Investigator* now firmly cements Hobart as the international hub of marine and Antarctic research.

Sitting alongside the \$45 million Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, delivered by the previous Labor Government, the *RV Investigator* will drive around \$11 million a year into the local Tasmanian economy.

While the *RV Investigator* will get straight to work on critical projects in our southern oceans, its potential is being significantly undermined by the Abbott Government's funding cuts.

In its first budget the Abbott Government slashed spending on science and research by \$878 million from science and research agencies, including almost \$115 million from the CSIRO.

The Abbott Government's decision to only fund operations for 180 of a possible 300 days each year is also a huge slap in the face of a critical industry to Hobart and the nation.

Labor will continue to fight for the work of the CSIRO and the RV *Investigator* because the Liberals have shown they clearly don't understand the importance of this investment.

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