

Media Release



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BENDERS JOINTLY RECOGNISED AS THE 2018 AUSTRALIAN FARMER OF THE YEAR

Hulon Aquaculture Co-Founders, Peter and Frances Bender have today been jointly recognised as the 2018 Australian Farmer of the Year.

Kondinin Group and ABC Rural made the announcement on ABC's *Country Hour*, broadcasting live from Canberra's Parliament House.

Hulon CEO and Co-Founder Peter Bender said, "We are delighted to be jointly recognised as the 2018 Australian Farmer of the Year. Hulon Aquaculture has come a long way over the last 32-years and we are excited to see the company grow from strength to strength."

The judges commended Peter and Frances for the hands-on role they have within the company, their business understanding, and the impact of the business.

Peter credits his deep business understanding to having built Hulon from the ground-up with Frances.

"We are proud to have built a business that has a positive reputation, provides meaningful employment opportunities to people living and working in rural areas of Australia, and contributes to Tasmania's economic success."

The judges also acknowledged their high level of innovation and the greater good work Peter and Frances are doing outside the business, and in the community.

"A lot of people don't realise how technologically innovative fish farming is and Hulon is leading the world in developing and using cutting-edge technology such Australia's first onshore salmon nursery."

They also appreciated the commitment Peter and Frances have to Hulon employees.

"I'd like to take a moment to thank all of our hard-working employees without whom we wouldn't be here today," concluded Peter Bender.

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Background:

- Hulon Aquaculture was founded by Peter and Frances Bender in Tasmania's Huon Valley in 1986
- Hulon was listed on the Australian Securities Exchange in 2014, and remains Australia's largest majority-owned and operated aquaculture company
- The company employs over 600 people

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