

News Release **Minister Geoff Brock**

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

Wednesday, 23 April 2014

New Golden North facility officially opened

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock will tomorrow officially open the latest upgrade to the Golden North ice cream production facilities at Laura.

Mr Brock said the re-development, which includes new packing equipment and more energy-efficient refrigeration, was supported by a \$200,000 grant from the State Government's Regional Development Fund.

"This fund will be expanded from \$1.6 million to \$15 million as part of my agreement with the Premier," Mr Brock said.

"The significant increase in funding will mean the fund can deliver much greater support for regional projects across the State which will provide better infrastructure, drive economic growth and create jobs.

"Golden North is a widely respected company and the growth of their operations will have a significant economic and social impact throughout the Mid North.

"I understand the company's next major investment, costing \$1.5 million, is planned to start within three years and will result in the redevelopment of the production packing area and extension to the loading dock," Mr Brock said.

Golden North General Manager, Peter Adamo said the company's investment in the new refrigeration and packing equipment was about \$2 million, which would ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of the business.

"This investment, with the support of the State Government grant, demonstrates our long-term commitment to the region," he said.

"The efficiencies we'll gain will mean we have greater flexibility and be able to develop higher-value product lines."

Mr Adamo said company revenue for the 12 months to the end of March was up by \$890,000.

Mr Brock said the new equipment opened today would reduce ice cream hardening time from as long as 83 hours down to just 34, along with a reduction in energy costs of about \$143,000 a year, saving around 569 tonnes of CO2 in greenhouse gas emissions.

"Golden North is the largest employer in Laura and I congratulate this iconic South Australian company for its foresight and commitment, not just to the local community, but to the Mid North and the State in general," Mr Brock said.

Note: Official opening at Golden North Laura production facility at 10.30am, Thursday April 24.

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