

## Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government

Tuesday, 26 August, 2014

### New mandarin packhouse increases Riverland citrus opportunities

An innovative mandarin packhouse built at Bookpurnong to improve fruit quality and increase exports from the Riverland is now up and running after being awarded a \$420,000 grant from the State Government's Riverland Sustainable Futures Fund.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said the new facility at Ingerson Citrus created employment opportunities in the Riverland and reflected the importance of the citrus industry to the region.

"Ingerson Citrus' new packhouse will improve product quality, as well as allowing greater quantities of mandarins to be delivered to local and export markets using a more efficient system," Mr Brock said.

"This will enhance the region's reputation as a quality producer, which is incredibly important when competing in the world market.

"This project will help drive growth, development and productivity in the Riverland and it aligns with the State's Government's strategic priority of Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment.

"The project has also created regional job opportunities, both directly and indirectly, with local contractors employed during installation and providing ongoing services," Mr Brock said.

David Ingerson from Ingerson Citrus said the new packhouse allowed the company to capitalise on the growing worldwide trend towards super sweet, seedless, easy peel mandarins.

"The new packhouse has been built with specific technology that handles the fruit in a gentle manner, retains the quality of the fruit and increases efficiency, so that we can be more competitive in our export endeavours," Mr Ingerson said.

"Not only will we be able to pack a greater volume of mandarins, but the increased efficiency will allow us to increase our focus on other citrus fruits grown on the property. We have also increased our staff of full time and seasonal casual employees equating to 5 full time equivalent jobs.

"This will boost the reputation of citrus fruit produced in the Riverland both in terms of quality, and in being able to meet orders and demanding timeframes from international markets," Mr Ingerson said.

The \$20 million Riverland Sustainable Futures Fund was established to assist with industry restructuring and promote sustainable economic and social development in the Riverland.