

## Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government

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### New waste management solution from cowpat to compost

Meningie feedlot – ‘Wanderribby’ – has completed a new environmentally friendly waste management project thanks to a \$167,500 grant from the State Government’s Regional Development Fund.

The manure composting business provides an enterprising way to manage waste production for local beef business, Gemlake.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said the project was already resulting in significant regional benefits.

“By turning waste into useful, low-odour compost, Gemlake is adding value to an unavoidable feedlot by-product,” Mr Brock said.

“This project will see the business take 15 000 tonnes a year of manure from the feedlot and turn the raw waste into a more readily useable and saleable form.

“This will have a positive environmental impact on both the feedlot and the region by efficiently reusing waste, aiding in improving soil conditions and avoiding the use of chemical fertilisers.

“Additionally, six jobs have been created as a result of this project,” Mr Brock said.

Gemlake’s Managing Director, Perry Gunner said the RDF grant meant the project was undertaken more quickly than originally anticipated, allowing the company to capitalise on opportunities and deliver benefits sooner.

“Receiving assistance to purchase the infrastructure meant we’ve been able to start realising the environmental benefits of this technology now,” Mr Gunner said.

“This has delivered a positive impact on the entire process from the initial processing of the waste through to ultimate crop nutrient harvesting.

“Thanks to the new facility, odours from feedlot waste will be significantly reduced and through the use of compost the moisture levels in cropping soil in the region will be improved.”

Wanderribby was established in the 1990’s and sells cattle and lamb to Feast Fine Foods, which processes and markets branded premium meat through five retail stores.

The Regional Development Fund focuses on driving economic growth and productivity by investing in regional infrastructure, creating jobs and new opportunities for regional South Australia. The annual fund has been increased from \$1.6 million to \$15 million this year as part of the State Government’s increased commitment to regions.