

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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Jobs, diversity and increased exports for Berri manufacturer

A Berri manufacturing company is now producing lightweight, environmentally friendly insulated roofing and wall building products after being awarded almost \$1.2 million from the State Government's Riverland Sustainable Futures Fund last year.

Valls Styrene has commenced manufacturing the new products after receiving the grant toward the cost of building infrastructure in Berri and the purchase of plant and equipment.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said the project provided real benefits for the region, offering a competitive advantage, as well as creating valuable job opportunities.

"The expanded operations of Valls Styrene will allow a significant increase in production for the company providing millions of dollars of revenue for the region and increase export opportunities," Mr Brock said.

"The manufacturing of these new products will generate economic diversity and create employment opportunities in the region to support the company's diversification.

"Four full time equivalent positions have already been created with a further eight to be established by 2017," Mr Brock said.

Valls Styrene Director, Tony Vallelonga said the expansion had been a great success for the company.

"We have been interested in manufacturing these building products for some time now, and this grant meant we were able to do it much sooner than we had hoped," Mr Vallelonga said.

"Valls Styrene is a proudly local company and we're very pleased to be able to contribute positively to the economy and our local community. We look forward to further growing this division of the company."

Established in 1983 to supply polystyrene packaging to Riverland fruit growers, Valls Styrene has expanded its Berri operations to four sites offering a diverse range of products and mouldings to include industrial and refrigeration packaging and building products.

The \$2.64 million project has enabled the building of a fifth site to house the company's operations to manufacture lightweight, environmentally friendly insulated roofing and wall building products.

The \$20 million RSFF was established to assist with industry restructuring and promote sustainable economic and social development in the Riverland. The full list of RSFF-funded projects can be viewed at www.pir.sa.gov.au/regions/programs/rsff