

## Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government

Thursday, 11 December, 2014

### \$200,000 grant delivers jobs for Murray and Mallee region

Free to range chicken meat production in South Australia is set to increase with assistance from a \$200,000 State Government regional development grant.

A new free to range broiler chicken farm at Paisley, east of Blanchetown in the State's Murray and Mallee region, will produce more than 2.8 million chickens a year for Inghams Enterprise Pty Limited.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said the farm would significantly increase employment options in the region and establish a valuable and sustainable business to benefit the local economy.

"This \$200,000 grant from the Small Grants Program, as part of the expanded \$15 million a year Regional Development Fund, will be used towards the construction of 12 sheds including electrical and water infrastructure to the new facility," Mr Brock said.

"The large capacity of these farms will help meet market demand for free range chicken meat on a commercial scale while adhering to free range regulations.

"Five new jobs will be created to manage and run the two farms with a flow-on effect of approximately 70 more jobs in breeding, processing, and retail and food service trades, as well as benefits to the transport industry as a result of increased production.

"The construction work required will also increase employment activity in the region," Mr Brock said.

Stephen Reed, Director of Big Bird Investments Pty Ltd – a contract grower for Inghams – said the consumer demand for humane, free to range chicken meat as growing exponentially.

"Increasing the production of free to range chickens will mean an increase in free range chicken products on the supermarket shelves," Mr Reed said.

"Through this project, South Australia is in a prime position to capitalise on this increased production.

"Free to range farms allow the chickens to forage outdoors during daylight hours and have a significantly lower bird density rate than that of conventional broiler chicken farms. The facilities will be RSPCA accredited," Mr Reed said.

The Regional Development Fund drives economic growth and productivity by offering grants to boost investment in regional infrastructure and the creation of jobs and new opportunities for regional South Australia. For more information visit [www.pir.sa.gov.au/regions/programs/rdf](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/regions/programs/rdf)