

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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\$200,000 grant towards expansion for Murray and Mallee salt company

A Murray and Mallee based company will create new jobs and increase its capacity to harvest, process and sell South Australian salt through an upgrade to its facilities at Mulgundawa, near Langhorne Creek.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock, said the expansion by Australian Saltworks would include construction of a 1700 square metre production and storage warehouse, as well as upgrading office and staff facilities.

“A \$200,000 grant from the enhanced \$15 million a year Regional Development Fund towards the expansion will help create 10 new full time jobs by 2016-17, double the company’s current storage capacity and allow increased production,” Mr Brock said.

“The project also means that research and development into new products can be undertaken, allowing the company to value-add and diversify its product range.

“One of the State’s Government’s strategic objectives is to extract local value from our mining resources, and this project will help diversify the region by providing jobs and growth in this little-known, yet very important section of the mining industry.

“In addition, improvements to staff facilities will also help retain staff, given the limited amenities currently nearby for workers,” Mr Brock said.

An Australian Saltworks Director, Michael McNamara said the project was important, not only for increasing regional employment, but also crucial for retaining current staff.

“Improving our facilities and production capability will allow us to continue to develop a skilled and sustainable workforce that matches industry needs, helping create a prosperous future for nearby towns, such as Murray Bridge and Strathalbyn, and the wider Adelaide Hills,” Mr McNamara said.

“All of these regions need jobs for young people and we have a focus on supporting the community by employing locally and offering skills development and training both in-house and through formal training.

“Demand is increasing for existing products like those we supply to the livestock industry, both on farm gate and post farm gate at the meatworks, and an increase in scale and staff will provide opportunities for continued expansion into new markets with new products and additional value-adding.

“We look forward to contributing to the State’s economy by continuing to grow our business and developing this expertise at our headquarters in regional South Australia,” Mr McNamara said.

The Australian Saltworks expansion is supported by a \$200,000 grant from the Small Grants Program of the State Government’s enhanced \$15 million a year Regional Development Fund.

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