

## Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government

Thursday, 22 January, 2015

### \$2.5m grant towards new boning facility to help create 200 new jobs

A \$2.5 million State Government grant towards a new state-of-the-art beef boning facility at Murray Bridge will help to significantly lift the daily output of Australia's largest mixed species abattoir and create 200 new jobs.

Announcing the grant today, Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said the Thomas Foods International abattoir was receiving the funding through the enhanced \$15 million a year Regional Development Fund.

"The upgrade through the Major Projects Program will further consolidate the company's beef processing operations in South Australia and create significant economic benefits for the State and the local community," Mr Brock said.

"The company's \$25.4 million upgrade will increase its beef processing capacity by over 25 per cent, create 200 new jobs, and increase the amount of beef available to the export and domestic markets.

"The new facility will feature the latest advanced manufacturing technology, significantly improving occupational health and safety and reducing the manual workload on employees.

"The Thomas Foods International Group is South Australia's largest regional private employer and this upgrade will result in a huge boost to regional employment.

"Sixty contractors from various suppliers and companies will also be required during the implementation phase.

"Benefits of this project will flow on to the transportation and shipping industries to cater for the increase in product destined for market.

"South Australian farmers will also benefit from the greater demand for local beef cattle," Mr Brock said.

Chief Operating Officer for Thomas Foods International, Mr David McKay said that the new boning facility would build on the company's capacity to produce meat products of the highest industry standard for local and international markets, and ensure continued support of local producers.

"Our new facility will use include the latest technology for refrigeration, conveying, sortation, cryovac packing and hygiene," Mr McKay said.

"An industry-first trims sortation system will be installed to analyse, mix and batch trimmings into specific lean meat grades, allowing for industry best practice value-adding.

“We are seeing a demand for Australian grass-fed beef in the key international markets of China and the United States.

“South Australia and its high quality grass-fed cattle is in a prime position to capitalise on these emerging markets, and through this project we are confident we can make this happen to the benefit of our local producers in the process.”

The State Government’s \$15 million a year 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/rdp](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/regions/programs/rdp)