

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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\$840,000 grant supports inland port expansion and 15 new jobs

Expansion of Australia's largest inland regional port will create new jobs in the Mid North and greater efficiencies for the exports from South Australia.

An \$840,000 regional development grant to Bowmans Intermodal Pty Ltd will fast-track the duplication of the existing rail line at the Bowmans facility, inland from Port Wakefield, as part of a \$3.8 million project to increase the capacity and value-adding activities of the site.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock announced the grant from the enhanced \$15 million Regional Development Fund while visiting the facility today.

"15 full time equivalent jobs will be created by this expansion, as well as around 20 new jobs during the construction phase," Mr Brock said.

"The project will see the doubling of Bowmans Intermodal's capacity from 25,000 Twenty Foot Equivalent Units (TEU) shipping containers per year to 50,000 TEU shipping containers through its road/rail operations.

"The expansion supports the provision of better infrastructure facilities and services to the local mining and agriculture industries, in particular, through improved capacity and efficiencies.

"This project will expand the terminal to enable value-adding activities to take place on site, including the packing of export containers with mining products, and will increase the site's capacity in general to handle greater train and container traffic," Mr Brock said.

Chairman of Bowmans Intermodal, Mr Malcolm May said the grant would see the rail duplication stage of the expansion completed in an accelerated timeframe.

"The Regional Development Fund grant means we will be able to carry out the extension earlier than expected," Mr May said.

"Expanding the existing rail line will give us the capacity to marshal longer and more frequent trains through the terminal, generating greater efficiencies sooner for our customers and growing our business.

"We'll see a reduction in regional freight costs realised through the increased terminal and rail line capacities, lowering supply chain costs and improving the competitiveness of industries supported through the facility."

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.

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