

## Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government

Friday, 13 March, 2015

### 80 new regional jobs created from state-of-the-art glasshouse construction

A \$2 million regional development grant will assist the multi-million dollar upgrade of the D’VineRipe facility in Two Wells, creating jobs and significantly increasing the site’s production capacity.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said that once completed, the new state-of-the-art glasshouse for Como Glasshouse, trading as D’VineRipe, would increase the company’s tomato production by 25 per cent.

“This project will improve the company’s capability to produce high-quality premium tomatoes at a mass level, opening up greater market opportunities through greater supply and quality,” Mr Brock said.

“The expansion will provide significant employment opportunities in the region, creating at least 80 full time equivalent jobs in addition to engaging a large number of local contractors during the construction phase and providing opportunities for a seasonal workforce.

“The State Government has been providing case management services to Como Glasshouse since 2007 and this partnership has resulted in continued investment in the region.

“Como Glasshouse will become the largest glasshouse in Australia when the new hectare glasshouse on an 8.2 hectare site is combined with the existing 27 hectare facility.

“A facility in regional South Australia like this is a real benefit to not just our horticulture industry, but to the whole State and strongly aligns with the government’s Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment strategic priority,” Mr Brock said.

Victor Smorgon Group Managing Director, Mr Peter Edwards said the new glasshouse would use leading- edge technologies to create efficiencies and ensure sustainability.

“The consumption of glasshouse-grown product is increasing in Australia,” Mr Edwards said.

“Supermarkets and consumers are demanding a premium grade product with strong visual appeal. Our new facility will place us in a leading position to supply hydroponic truss tomatoes to major domestic retailers.

“The new glasshouse will be equal to the most technologically advanced glasshouses in the world, using the latest in computerised climate control systems and pad and fan technology, which controls critical growing parameters within the glasshouse.

“A biomass woodboiler and the use of treated recycled water will ensure that the glasshouse operates in an environmentally friendly manner.”

The State Government’s enhanced \$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/rdf](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/regions/programs/rdf)