

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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\$200,000 grant delivers jobs and growth for Adelaide Hills orchard company

A new grading system for Ceravolo Orchards in the Adelaide Hills will double the company's processing capacity and create new job opportunities with support from a \$200,000 State Government Regional Development Fund grant.

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock said the grant would assist the Ashton-based orchard in its upgrade allowing the company to grow its business and better meet customer requirements.

"This project has a real focus on improving current operational methods, building capacity and creating jobs which will provide real economic benefits for the region," Mr Brock said.

"It will create 16 new jobs by 2019 and improve the job security of another 32 existing employees in addition to the seasonal workers that are taken on by the company.

"Local companies will carry out the construction of a new mezzanine level at the facilities, including plumbing and electrical work. This additional space will be used for storage and to improve safety and hygiene.

"This project supports the State Government's economic priorities of 'Premium Food and Wine produced in our Clean Environment and exported to the World' and 'Growth Through Innovation'," Mr Brock said.

Ceravolo Orchards Director, Tony Ceravolo said that with the current grading system operating at full capacity, the new grading equipment would increase the company's output in terms of quantity and quality.

"The blemish grader is a critical part of the system as it digitally detects blemishes and imperfections on the fruit with a very high degree of sensitivity and accuracy.

"This is currently done by visual inspection, which is more time consuming and less accurate," Mr Ceravolo said.

"Many of our current employees live in the Adelaide Hills region and by increasing our capacity we can provide employment security, as well as additional job opportunities.

"In addition to this, a new mezzanine floor above the grading hall will be constructed to hold cartons and packaging to reduce health and safety risks and improve carton hygiene standards."

The State Government's 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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