

## Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government

Monday, 19 October, 2015

### Jobs boost at Kapunda through feed mill upgrade

A \$15.6 million expansion at a Kapunda-based animal feed pellet mill will double the company's output and create job opportunities in the Barossa, Light and Lower North region.

JT Johnson and Sons – a major feed supplier to Australian livestock producers – is upgrading its Kapunda pellet mill by implementing advanced technologies and doubling its stock feed output capacity to over 200,000 tonnes annually.

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock today announced a \$500,000 grant from the State Government's Regional Development Fund to assist in nearly \$3 million of electrical upgrade work as part of the feed mill upgrade.

"The company's new technologies will improve Johnson's manufacturing capability by introducing new processes and improving existing ones," Mr Brock said.

"This major project will provide a significant economic and employment boost for the region.

"Nine new full time jobs will be created along with another 80 jobs during construction.

"All raw materials obtained for the feed mill are sourced locally or from the adjacent regions, as is the transport they use.

"This provides a real flow-on effect for Kapunda, the surrounding community and the Barossa, Light and Lower North region."

Mr Brock said the project was an example of how regional South Australia is supporting the State's economic priority of 'Premium food and wine produced in our clean environment and exported to the world' as well as 'Growth through innovation'.

Robbie Johnson, Director of JT Johnson and Sons, said the upgrade would improve the company's production of high quality feed products for the fodder markets, which are distributed both domestically and internationally.

"The Regional Development Fund grant will allow us to proceed with infrastructure upgrades that drastically improve power use efficiency and to augment additional power to the production facility," Mr Johnson said.

"High market demand is expected to remain as livestock exports and local feedlots expand and require more feed.

“We are seeing a significant increase in demand for pellets, particularly in places such as China, the Middle East and Indonesia.”

The State Government’s Regional Development Fund drives economic growth and productivity by offering grants to boost investment in regional infrastructure and to create jobs and new opportunities for regional South Australia.

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