

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

Wednesday, 4 November, 2015

New almond plantation creates Riverland jobs

A \$600,000 Regional Development Fund grant will help create 13 new jobs through a three year Riverland project to convert 466 hectares of dryland farming land into prime irrigated horticultural land for almond orchards.

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock said the State Government grant would assist family-owned business CMV Farms Pty Ltd to undertake the \$14 million project near Loxton.

“This development strengthens CMV Farms’ commitment to South Australia’s almond industry through the entire process of growing, processing, packaging and marketing,” Mr Brock said.

“The project will allow the company to develop significant infrastructure which will have permanent, long-term benefits for the region, including major electrical work and the installation of a water pipeline.

“Thirteen new positions will be created in addition to nine jobs during construction. This will also result in a flow-on of increased work for local contractors and will support local businesses.

“Improved economic activity and increased job opportunities play an important role in encouraging people to stay in regional areas and create sustainable communities. That’s the goal of the Regional Development Fund,” Mr Brock said.

Managing Director of CMV Farms Pty Ltd, Mr David Crawford said the company’s Fielke Almond project would benefit from its existing skills in almond growing and developing irrigated horticulture and viticulture properties.

“CMV Farms has a proven track record in supplying high quality almonds to our domestic and export markets from Riverland Almonds, our Loxton processing facility,” Mr Crawford said.

“We see this project as a positive step in responding to the increasing global demand for almonds. Conversion of this land for almond planting will create significant economic benefits for the region.

“The Loxton area is well suited to growing almonds, both in terms of climate and the existing supporting businesses. The support we have had so far from the State Government, council and land-holders has been wonderful.

“The RDF grant will help us to proceed with the project in an even more confident manner, allowing us to fast-track Stage 1 and employ people earlier.

“This involves the design, purchase and building of a pumping facility, as well as the installation of a 3.6 kilometre major irrigation pipeline to the property.”

The project aligns with the State Government economic priority of ‘Premium food and wine produced in our clean environment and exported to the world’.

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

For more information visit www.pir.sa.gov.au/rdf