

## Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government

Tuesday, 8 December, 2015

### \$856,000 Ashwood Estate grant to create 17 jobs

Oakbank based company Ashwood Estate is set to increase its cider and wine production in the Adelaide Hills and create 17 regional jobs through an \$856,000 State Government Regional Development Fund grant.

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock said the grant would go towards a \$3.5 million expansion of the company's Sidewood Estate site at Nairne

"The installation of new bottling and canning equipment for cider, sparkling and still wine will significantly increase Sidewood's production capacity," Mr Brock said.

"A fully automated, industry best-practice bottling line will be installed which is expected to produce 376,000 bottles of wine and cider annually by 2017.

"A canning line will offer a new option for local producers and improve export competitiveness as a cheaper alternative to bottling.

"This local provision of canning is new to the Adelaide Hills region, and will allow the region's boutique cideries and fruit growers to develop and market new products.

"This will, in turn, create opportunities for a number of food and wine producers to expand their own businesses.

"The project, which aligns with the State Government's economic priority of 'Premium food and wine produced in our clean environment and exported to the world', will create 17 new full time equivalent jobs and five during construction," Mr Brock said.

Mr Owen Inglis of Ashwood Estate said that the company anticipated a strong demand for its increased processing services.

"We are providing new options for small companies looking for a commercially viable way to value-add processing to their business, capturing new markets for their product," Mr Inglis said.

"We are grateful for the funding support which will allow us to become the only South Australian cider producer with the complete process under one roof – the ability to mill, crush, ferment, keg, can and bottle.

"With the bottling facility open to third party clients, the new manufacturing capacity will offer Adelaide Hills wine producers the opportunity to enter a new market segment.

“This will be especially attractive to small wineries and local fruit grocers looking for a commercially viable option for value-added processing.

“This will allow us to grow volumes for our own use and also process fruit for growers in the region currently without the capacity and where fruit would otherwise be destined for waste,” Mr Inglis said.

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

The third round of the Regional Development Fund is currently open for applications until Friday 15 January 2016.

For more information visit [www.pir.sa.gov.au/rdf](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/rdf)