

# News releases - Geoff Brock

## Investment in River Murray communities' long-term future

Geoff Brock September 19, 2016

The Australian and South Australian governments have today announced funding for three new innovative jobs projects designed to diversify productivity and create new opportunities in the Murray River region.

The three new projects to share in the \$1.5 million investment are a piggery re-development at Mt Boothby, a native foods business in the lower River Murray and the new Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, which will build on its successful Aboriginal Learning on Country Program and Community Nurseries Network initiatives.

Minister for Regional Development Fiona Nash said the three new projects will be funded as part of the Australian Government's \$265 million South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program.

"The Australian Government is committed to supporting River Murray communities and to promoting social inclusion and address indigenous disadvantage," Minister Nash said.

Federal Member for Barker Tony Pasin said the Australian Government's commitment today will contribute to the creation of new jobs in the regions.

"Together, these projects will create 55 jobs directly and help deliver more training and skills development, particularly in primary production and natural resource management for Aboriginal communities in the Coorong and Murray Bridge regions," Mr Pasin said.

South Australian Minister for Regional Development Geoff Brock said the funding was committed under the competitive grants sub-program Regional Development Innovation Fund (RDIF), established to support projects that boost regional development, employment, economic diversification and innovation in the South Australian River Murray region

"There are some fantastic projects being supported by the State and Federal governments in the region," Mr Brock said.

"I congratulate the final three in this competitive grants round: Mt Boothby Pastoral Company; Richard Gunner Fine Meats, and the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, for the time and effort put into creating these project proposals, which will have real economic returns for the whole state."

The funded projects are:

- Wellington Native Greens (part of Richard Gunner Fine Meats), which will harvest wild-grown native greens from a site at Wellington, on the lower River Murray. The company will source around 60 per cent of its workforce from local Aboriginal communities and create an estimated 26 full-time equivalent jobs when it reaches full production.

- The Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority project will provide employment, training and qualifications to Aboriginal people in natural resource management, primary production and associated industries, with 21 full-time equivalent jobs expected to be created.
- Mount Boothby Pastoral Co Pty Ltd will undertake a redevelopment and expansion of its piggery, which includes the building of new stalls for up to 500 sows and a new feed mill. The expansion is expected to create up to eight new full time jobs.