

News releases - Geoff Brock

\$220,000 regional grant for improved mushroom production

December 14, 2016

South Australian mushroom producers P&L Rogers will establish a new facility at Port Wakefield to improve their mushroom production process, with support from a \$220,000 State Government Regional Development Fund grant.

The new site will produce the company's base material (or substrate) vital to the mushroom growth cycle, which will help to ensure its premium quality and an increase supply for customers.

The new facility will recycle by-products from local chicken and crop farms to create the sustainable base product for mushroom growth.

The construction of the Port Wakefield facility is the first stage in a larger company expansion project.

This first stage will invest \$3.37 million into the Yorke and Mid North region and create five ongoing jobs and 20 jobs during construction.

Background

P&L Rogers is the largest family-owned mushroom farm in South Australia. Its high quality mushrooms are sold in South Australia and interstate.

The Regional Development Fund (RDF) drives economic growth through grants to boost investment in regional infrastructure and the creation of jobs in South Australia.

According to independent analysis, projects awarded grants through Rounds 1 and 2 of the RDF created over 2000 regional jobs and contributed around \$930 million to the South Australian economy in 2015-16.

In the Yorke and Mid North, RDF projects from Rounds 1 and 2 created around 350 jobs and contributed around \$100 million to the economy in 2015-16.

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'.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

This new Port Wakefield site will produce substrate using the latest technology, contributing to best practice, environmentally clean mushroom production.

By producing its own substrate, P&L Rogers can ensure a consistently high quality and reliable future supply of inputs for its mushroom production.

This project will open up new opportunities for existing local businesses such as farmers, trades and other service business, and create new jobs in the region.

Quotes attributable to P&L Rogers Managing Director Phil Rogers

Production of our own substrate will strengthen P&L Rogers' business operations and enable both immediate and future growth opportunities.

The quality of substrate is critical to successful mushroom production. In producing our own high quality material we will be able to ensure a consistent, premium quality and increase the yield of mushrooms we grow.

Using by-products from local producers means we're supporting the region, creating new income streams for our neighbours, and ensuring a sustainable process for ourselves.

This site represents the first stage in our greater expansion project which will use innovative, Australian-first production techniques to reduce mushroom production time, doubling production output per annum.