

News releases - Geoff Brock

Jobs and growth for Port Pirie home improvement business

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A Port Pirie home improvement business is poised to capitalise on niche market opportunities through support from a State Government grant.

A \$97,500 Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program grant is assisting Johnson Home Improvements to purchase and install a new computerised wood machining centre and associated software.

This will allow the company to integrate its design and manufacturing process producing a more consistent and better quality product.

The project will enhance the Port Pirie-based business' manufacturing capacity and efficiency, and support the firm's expansion into supplying the interstate commercial and domestic building industry.

Eight ongoing full time jobs will be created through the project.

Background

Johnson Home Improvements supply custom joinery and aluminium products, as well as a variety of custom-made home improvement options. They manufacture, supply and install all of their own products from roofing and carports to kitchens, aluminum windows and doors.

The \$2 million Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program is a one-off grants program, which opened in November 2015 in recognition of the challenges resulting from the downturn of the resources sector and the closure of the Port Augusta power station and Leigh Creek coal mine.

The program supports the delivery of small projects contributing to the economic diversification, resilience and capacity building of Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback communities, creating sustainable economic benefits to the region and the State.

This project aligns with the State Government's economic priority of 'Growth through innovation'.

Quotes Attributable to Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock

This project is designed to enhance the manufacturing capacity and efficiency of Port Pirie's Johnson Home Improvements to enable the business to broaden its market reach and product offering.

The lack of providers and the service gaps in rural regions adds to the importance of establishing a significant facility in Port Pirie which can be used by many of the neighbouring communities.

Projects awarded funding through the Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program will stimulate new business activity, support stronger communities, and create job opportunities in the region.

Quotes Attributable to Managing Director, Johnson Home Improvements Malcolm Johnson

This has enabled the purchase of new equipment that will make us significantly more efficient and able to produce a better quality product.

This will assist us in targeting Northern Territory and other markets, expanding our business reach and creating jobs, not just in our factory, but indirectly through related sectors such as transport and maintenance.

The gains realised through this new technology will be re-invested in quality improvement and better customer service – two areas of any business that deserve attention.