

News releases - Geoff Brock

\$63,000 grant for Far North underground bakery to generate seven jobs

April 13, 2017

An historic Flinders Ranges township will receive a major tourism boost with support from a \$63,000 State Government Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures grant.

A new café and a museum at Farina – 60 km north of Leigh Creek – will bring more visitors to the region, as well as providing a valuable resource for school field trips.

The grant will support the first of two stages of construction, generating seven jobs.

Background

Farina is growing as a tourist destination, even though many of its facilities – including the post office and rail line – were closed by the 1980s.

The township is centrally located to other nearby tourist attractions, including Wilpena Pound and the Flinders Ranges National Park, and is on the major route to the Marree, Birdsville, and Oodnadatta tracks.

In 2010, the Farina Restoration Group was incorporated to redevelop the town's tourist potential.

The first building to be restored was the town's historic underground bakery, which now operates in the winter tourist season.

The \$2 million Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program is a once-off grants program, which opened in November 2015 in recognition of the challenges brought about by 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 'Premium food and wine produced in our clean environment and exported to the world' and 'South Australia – a growing destination choice for international and domestic travellers'.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

These new facilities will provide an updated and enhanced destination for travellers to this unique part of South Australia.

The construction of the café and museum will further develop the town as a tourist destination, as well as creating construction jobs for the region.

I congratulate the Farina Restoration Group on the great job they have done in realizing the tourism potential of the township and developing its attractions.

This is the exactly the type of project we want to support through the Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program.

Quotes attributable to Farina Restoration Group Project Officer Steve Harding

This grant will help us to really promote Farina on the map as a growing tourist destination by supporting the construction of a museum and café.

Farina offers a premium food experience with bread baked in its unique, underground bakery.

The traditional scotch wood-fired oven – which retains heat through the sand and stone structure – produces fantastic bread and pastry products on a daily basis during the eight-week winter tourist season.

We're excited about this grant, as it will allow us to move to the second stage of the expansion faster.

The next stage will develop a new bakery training area in the redeveloped underground bakery which will offer work experience for trainee bakers.

Tourists to our State are looking to experience and have exposure to our local history, Indigenous past and culture. This project will help to meet the ever-demanding quest from our students and visitors for more information.