

News releases - Geoff Brock

New Nutcracker Arrives at Swan Reach

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The new Costa Brothers Hullers and Shellers almond cracking facility has officially opened in Swan Reach today, with the facility boasting new water management and recycling capabilities.

Federal Minister for Regional Development Fiona Nash said it was great to invest in a project that contributes to the region's economic diversification.

"I aim to build the kinds of communities our children and grandchildren either want to stay in or come back to, and having local industry and businesses in place is a big part of that," Minister Nash said.

"I am excited about the opportunities that have opened up to local industry thanks this investment. The SARMS Regional Development and Innovation Fund (RDIF) will help support more than 1,100 local jobs and grow the region's economy."

Federal Member for Barker Tony Pasin, who joined the community today for the opening, said that he was excited to see how the facility has incorporated sustainable water usage into its design.

"The Murray River is the lifeblood of this community in so many ways, so we must ensure that we safeguard it so that future generations can view and enjoy the plentiful bounties of this river system," Mr Pasin said.

"This facility has made excellent use of water recycling technology to limit its direct impact on the river system and help secure the diverse ecosystem of the river, especially keeping the black swans of the river alive and well."

South Australian Minister for Regional Development Geoff Brock congratulated the company on its modern, high tech development which he said would boost employment in the region.

"The development will create up to 35 new jobs in addition to more than 100 jobs that were required for construction," Mr Brock said.

"There have been immediate positive spin-offs for Swan Reach. Local trades and businesses contributed to the construction with spin-offs for food and accommodation businesses. The local pub has also re-opened.

I also want to acknowledge the huge investment that has gone into the innovative energy efficient aspects of this development, which is what the RDIF is all about supporting.

The Coalition Government provided \$1.85 million through the RDIF, which is part of the South Australia River Murray Sustainability (SARMS) Program and is delivered by to the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) to deliver the new almond cracking plant.