

Crystal Brook sale yard opens for business

Geoff Brock October 4, 2017

A new sheep saleyard facility will open for business in Crystal Brook today.

Minister for Regional Development Geoff Brock will officially open the new facility, which was constructed with the support of a \$115,000 Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program (USGAFP) State Government grant.

The Combined Independent Agents Association (CIAA) saleyard is designed to boost the state's lamb, mutton and wool supply chain which will see up to 60,000 head of sheep pass through every year.

The saleyards allow 'feeder' sheep to be fattened into premium meat or breeding and wool sheep. Without the saleyard, the majority of feeder sheep would be slaughtered prematurely or sold interstate, taking the value-adding benefit with them.

It is expected that the new saleyard will attract business from bordering states, particularly the New South Wales pastoral region.

The saleyard has created 16 construction jobs and one ongoing full-time position.

Background

The CIAA manages the collective yarding, auctioneering and settlement of weekly markets on the Adelaide Plains for its 16 affiliated agents.

The \$2 million USGAFP is a once-off grants program which opened in November 2015. The program was created in response to the challenges facing the Upper Spencer Gulf following the downturn of the resources sector and the closure of the Port Augusta power station and Leigh Creek coal mine.

The USGAFP 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'.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

I am proud to open the new Crystal Brook saleyard today.

The saleyard will significantly increase the economic output of our pastoral industry by boosting the value of their premium product and bringing in business from interstate.

The State Government is proud to have supported this project, which will be an outstanding boost for the Mid North region and for the state's sheep industry more broadly.

Quotes attributable to Livestock Manager Wayne Hall, Combined Independent Agents Association

Having saleyards in Crystal Brook will address an inefficiency in the state's lamb, mutton and wool supply chain. It means that farmers can fatten lower-grade sheep in the region and keep the value adding benefits here in South Australia.

The saleyard will initially draw livestock from our 16 affiliated agents, which through more than 50 on-ground agents service more than 5000 South Australian farmers. We expect to see 50,000-60,000 head of sheep pass through each year.

There has been an ongoing demand for such a facility in the region for quite some time. The State Government grant has meant that we could accelerate the project and bring forward an industry-wide goal of adding more value to South Australia's sheep supply chain.