

Hon Geoff Brock MP Minister for Regional Development

Saturday, 11 November 2017

Great Northern Lodge officially opened

Quorn's newest tourism destination is being officially opened today with a celebration to mark the completion of Great Northern Lodge.

The new 4.5 star motel and function centre was part-funded through a \$400,000 State Government Regional Development Fund Grant.

The site's upgrade and expansion by Far North family business Rowesa has seen the construction of 22 self-contained units, 10 motel units, a function centre with conference facilities, a shared outdoor area with a barbecue, pizza oven and fire pit, and a native orchard and kitchen garden.

The new complex is in the heart of Quorn, alongside the family's existing business Emily's Bistro, and will see the creation of eight ongoing FTE positions.

Background

Rowesa is a family-owned and operated business with significant experience in developing, managing and operating accommodation, restaurants and function venues.

The family built and operated the Old Willows Brewery Restaurant for 22 years (awarded the Civic Trust of South Australia Award in 1991), renovated Quorn's original Great Northern Emporium (1878-2004) to become Emily's Bistro which opened in 2011, and also currently run the Old Willows Country Estate accommodation in Quorn, and Willows on the Wharf in Kingscote, Kangaroo Island.

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

This project supports the State Government's economic priority of 'South Australia – a destination of choice'.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

I turned the sod for Great Northern Lodge with the Premier in February last year, and it's an honour to officially open these beautiful new buildings today.

The innovation and industry for which our regions are renowned are on show in this project, which will draw a range of visitors, from self-drive couples, families and family groups to coach tours.

There has been nothing like this in Quorn until now, and it will address a tourism gap in the market, particularly for coach tourists.

The construction of Great Northern Lodge has created much-needed job opportunities for the local community, and will continue to do so, boosting economic flow-on effects into the township and surrounding region.

Quotes attributable to Rowesa Co-owner Wendy Brown

After so many years of planning and hard work it's very exciting to be officially opening today, much sooner than we ever could have without the support of the RDF grant.

Great Northern Lodge is proud to offer a range of sophisticated, comfortable and contemporary accommodation options for visitors to Quorn, as well as the 50 seat function centre. We're looking forward to attracting more people to our beautiful town.

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