

Hon Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development

Monday, 15 January, 2018

Grant bolsters spirits at McLaren Vale winery

A joint venture between a McLaren Vale winery and a new spirits distillery will create 15 full-time equivalent jobs, while showcasing some of South Australia's best wine and spirits in the one place.

A \$400,000 State Government Regional Development Fund grant will contribute to a \$1.6 million project to help Royal Park-based Never Never Distilling Co. move to McLaren Vale, where it will expand its operations at the Chalk Hill Wines site.

Never Never Distilling Co. aims to create Australia's most interesting and ambitious gins and whiskies complementing Chalk Hill's well-established reputation for world-class wines. Fifteen ongoing full-time equivalent positions will be created with the new wine and spirit partnership, along with around 10 jobs during the construction phase.

Together, the companies will embark on crafting unique wine and spirit experiences for the corporate and tourism sectors, leveraging the site's stunning 270 degree views of the McLaren Vale region as well boost sales and export opportunities.

The funding will assist Never Never Distilling Co. to grow its production capacity with a 350m² state-of-the-art spirits distillery, including a cellar door/bar experience and the opportunity to co-host events and functions with Chalk Hill Wines.

The project aligns with the SA Government's economic priorities of premium food and wine produced in our clean environment and exported to the world, growth through innovation and opening doors for small business.

Background

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

The RDF has been independently assessed by Ernst and Young. This assessment showed that projects supported by the RDF in the 2016/17 financial year alone would make an economic contribution to the state of over \$1 billion and create over 3000 regional jobs.

Never Never Distilling Co. was founded by Sean Baxter (Sales & Marketing), George Georgiadis (Director) and Tim Boast (Head Distiller) in May 2016, with the first sales of their

Triple Juniper Gin in July 2017. The distillery is currently based in a 16m² space inside Big Shed Brewing Concern in Royal Park where there is no room to expand production.

The first Chalk Hill Wines vineyard was planted in 1897, the wine company is family-owned and dedicated to making small batch, hand-crafted wines of distinction. The Harvey family grape growing heritage goes back six generations in South Australia and now has six vineyards across the McLaren Vale wine region.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock:

This partnership between Chalk Hill Wines and Never Never Distilling Co. will allow the brands to create a regional destination with a uniquely Australian difference.

The vineyard is an ideal new home for the Never Never Distilling Co. to expand its premises and production capacity and to continue to develop its innovative spirits.

The McLaren Vale region is an integral part of the state's identity and we look forward to this partnership between Chalk Hill Wines and Never Never Distilling Co. becoming part of the region's economic success story.

Quotes attributable to Chalk Hill Wines general manager Stuart Mosman:

We saw a kindred spirit between Chalk Hill Wines and Never Never Distilling Co. when they came to us with a vision for their premium brand.

From the beginning, they were showing us innovation and quality, from their triple juniper gin right down to their product packaging.

This joint venture will be something special for South Australia. The Chalk Hill vista is truly beautiful and the perfect place for us to showcase our amazing single vineyard wines, along with world class, small batch spirits.

We're going to create something quite special and look forward to sharing our vision with the state, and beyond.

Quotes attributable to Never Never Distilling Co. director George Georgiadis:

The Regional Development Fund grant allows us to build a unique brand home for Never Never that integrates a state-of-the-art production and cellar door experience.

We're excited to work alongside Chalk Hill who share our vision for quality and a sense of place.

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McLaren Vale is a region at the top of Australia's food and beverage industry and the ideal place for Never Never to be based. We even pick up the features of the landscape on our packaging.

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