

Hon Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development

Wednesday, 17 January, 2018

Jobs growth in new Naracoorte specialist seed processing plant

Ten new FTE jobs will be created and the Limestone Coast will become a world-leading specialist seed processing hub with the construction of a new \$5.4 million plant.

A \$300,000 State Government Regional Development Fund grant will assist South Pacific Seeds (SPS) to build the new plant in Naracoorte, allowing locally grown seeds to be processed and exported directly to markets in Asia, Europe and Australia.

Along with the creation of 10 ongoing full-time equivalent positions, 12 will also be created during the construction of the facility. South Pacific Seeds will also need to contract additional Limestone Coast growers to supply seeds to the Lucindale Road plant for processing and export.

The grant will assist Stage One of the overall project, which is the construction of a new \$2.9 million processing facility. A total investment of \$5.4 million is planned with subsequent developments.

The first seeds are expected to be exported this year.

Background

South Pacific Seeds (SPS) was established in 1986 and specialises in producing high quality vegetable seed crops under contract agreements for customers around the world.

The company's core business involves contracting growers across South Eastern Australia to multiply specific varieties and crop types from seeding through to processing and export. SPS is also the leading supplier of commercial vegetable seeds to the Australian market.

The South Australian Division of SPS produces a range of high value vegetable seed crops – including carrots, onion, radish, pak choi and celery – for global markets, and more recently became the preferred production partner with CSIRO to produce Kebari Ultra-Low Gluten Barley, the world's first low gluten barley.

The State Government's 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.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

South Pacific Seeds has been working on this project for a number of years – the company is keen to use this as an opportunity to expand its operations.

This development will also provide exciting opportunities for Limestone Coast growers, who can supply seeds to the company.

The project has excellent opportunities for full-time jobs and increased economic activity in the region and I'm delighted to support the development of such an important piece of infrastructure with a Regional Development Fund grant.

Quotes attributable to South Pacific Seeds South Australia production manager Georgina Fitzgerald:

Naracoorte is a key centre in the heart of the largest small-seed production area in Australia and it made sense for us to locate our new purpose built facility there.

We are grateful for the assistance of the Regional Development Fund grant to help make this project a reality.

It will give us a 200 per cent increase in primary cleaning capacity and the efficiencies and capabilities of the new machines will enable us to be more competitive in the world market.

We are looking forward to working more closely with our growers in the region and creating extra employment and export opportunities.

Media Contact: Pamela Perre 0481 918 491