

Geoff Brock MP

Minister for Regional Development

Tuesday, 30 January 2018

\$3.7 million Clare Research Centre officially opened

Clare will be home to the ‘jewel in the crown’ for grains research and development for the Mid North and Yorke Peninsula following today’s official opening of a modern 3.7 million research centre.

Minister for Regional Development Geoff Brock will officially open the new Clare Research Centre.

The new purpose-built Clare Research Centre has been established on Primary Industries and Regions SA’s (PIRSA) Farrell Flat Road site because the previous facilities no longer provided the capability required to meet research needs.

Set to increase the capacity of research within the region, the redeveloped site boasts new high quality laboratory facilities designed to meet the research needs of the future, and an emergency control room and emergency animal health laboratory.

In the coming months, the Clare Research Centre will also be home to a controlled growth room for grains research – one of the most modern facilities in Australia – thanks to a Grains Research and Development (GRDC) infrastructure grant.

The South Australian Research and Development Institute’s (SARDI) New Variety Agronomy Group, part of an expanding regional team providing applied research and development to SA’s regions, will be among 14 staff based at the new Clare Research Centre. This team has had a critical impact on the expansion and profitability of farming systems in the Mid North and Yorke Peninsula in collaboration with key partners.

The centre will also support research programs undertaken by Rural Solutions and Biosecurity SA in the region.

Background

The redevelopment of this site and establishment of the Clare Research Centre is a key part of the State Government’s commitment to grains research and to a five year \$50 million strategic partnership between the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and PIRSA-SARDI.

South Australian farmers grow around four million hectares of grain crop each year, including wheat, barley, lentils and canola.

In 2016–17, South Australia’s grain industry generated around \$5.3 billion in revenue.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Development Geoff Brock:

I have no doubt that the Clare Research Centre will go forward to build upon its reputation for excellence through the results it delivers to the region’s farmers and grains producers.

The investment in new facilities like these helps to grow our reputation for world-renowned research, and is vital to supporting our thriving food, wine and agribusiness industries, which are vital to South Australia’s economy.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell

With food and wine gross revenue reaching a record \$19.97 billion in 2016/17 and exports now accounting for half of all South Australia’s merchandise exports, our agriculture sector is the engine room of our economy.

Investment in grains industry research is vital to keep South Australia’s farmers equipped with the best technology and advances in farming techniques.

The State Government is proud to support this research with new purpose-built laboratories at the Clare Research Centre.

The upgraded facilities will significantly enhance SARDI’s research capabilities in the Mid North, which is home to diverse and productive farming land, and an important region for the grains industry.

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