

Hon Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development

Wednesday, 14 February 2018

Chocolate and wine a perfect pairing for the Barossa

A \$750,000 State Government grant will support the construction of a unique tourism venture in the Barossa Valley pairing chocolate with the region's premium food and wine products.

Chocolate Ventures Australia has been offered the grant from the Regional Development Fund to build a \$3.7 million family-friendly facility.

The project will include the introduction of a chocolatier kitchen, café and cellar door on Burings Road in Tanunda. Twenty to thirty full-time equivalent ongoing positions will be created on completion, along with up to 15 during construction.

Chocolate Ventures is seeking to contribute to the Barossa's in-demand tourism offerings by catering for non-drinkers, minors and family groups who are seeking both wine and non-wine experiences during their visit.

Background

South Australian companies OMG Australia and FABAL Group have formed Chocolate Ventures Australia Pty Ltd to operate the Barossa Valley Chocolate Company as a chocolatier, approximately 1km from the Tanunda town centre.

The Barossa Valley Chocolate Company's plan is to mix tourism, wine and quality Australian-owned and made premium food, and the manufacturing of gourmet products with Belgian chocolate as the base product.

The FABAL Group Pty Ltd is a South Australian-based company founded by Chris Day and partners, with a 36-year history and more than 1,500 hectares of vineyard.

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

The Regional Development Fund 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 3,000 regional jobs.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

This new family friendly chocolate company will be a very valuable addition to the world famous wine and food products already offered in the Barossa Valley.

The full-time employment opportunities during and after construction go to the heart of what the Regional Development Fund is all about – supporting economic development in South Australia’s vibrant regions and creating ongoing jobs.

The State Government is committed to building stronger regions because we know they are important drivers of our future economic growth.

Quotes attributable to FABAL Group director Chris Day

It’s fantastic to have the support of the South Australian Government’s Regional Development Fund to help us realise our ambition to create a truly unique experience for visitors in the Barossa.

The Barossa Valley Chocolate Company wants to cater for all demographics, showcase the best of the best in local food and wine and our selection of gourmet chocolates will give us a great point of difference for families and those with a sweet tooth who are looking to indulge.

It’s part our strategy to provide an agri-tourism experience to three or four generations of one family all at the same time in Australia’s premier wine region.

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