



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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Simplot Progresses Major Economic Development Grant

Liberal Senator for Tasmania Richard Colbeck and Liberal Candidate for Braddon Gavin Pearce have welcomed the progression to Full Business Case assessment for Simplot in their application for a \$12 million economic development grant.

Senator Colbeck: “The Coalition Government is committed to unlocking significant private investment in our regions through the Regional Growth Fund, which will support the generation of new local jobs.

“Simplot has successfully passed the initial phase of the grant process for its Ulverstone plant and is now invited to submit a Full Business Case for final assessment.

“Industry Minister Karen Andrews will be touring the facility today to gain an understanding of the importance of this potential \$12 million investment, which will unlock a further \$37.1 million investment from Simplot in Ulverstone.

“The upgrade of the potato processing facility will see Simplot increase production capacity by 5-10% over the next decade, driving a projected growth of \$164 million in the local economy over that period in logistics, packaging and raw materials (including potatoes) with additional revenue for local businesses reaching approximately \$11.5 million by Year 3 of operation.”

Mr Pearce: “As a farmer I get how important it is to invest in the economic future of our region, particularly when it comes to helping our businesses compete.

“Simplot directly employs 320 locals in our region and sources potatoes from over 150 local growers and 15 seed growers.

“I’m very pleased to see the commitment from Simplot and the Coalition Government to progress this project to the next stage.

“Agriculture is one of the core industries in our local economy and the opportunity to facilitate the growth of downstream processing and the increased demand for product from our farmers is very welcome.”

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