



New Melbourne's North Food Group to grow Food and Beverage Manufacturing in Melbourne's North

RMIT University, Bundoora Campus, Thursday 15 February 2018

The formation of a Melbourne's North Food Group will grow Food and Beverage Manufacturing in Melbourne's North, with the support of the Victorian Government Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources Sector Growth Program.

The group was launched today by Industry and Employment Minister the Hon Ben Carroll MP, Energy Environment, Climate Change and Suburban Development Minister the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP and Speaker the Hon Colin Brooks MP.

"Melbourne's North is a home to a major Food and Beverage manufacturing cluster with 400 manufacturers turning over \$1 million or more", says NORTH Link Executive Director Chris James.

"The Melbourne's North Food and Growth Plan found that, with the right support, the food sector in the North could double output to \$5 billion and add 7,000 jobs over the coming decade. To ensure this happened, a key recommendation of that report was to form an industry group to support the manufacturers.

"The Melbourne's North Food Group will be able to

- Facilitate business capability reviews of Food and Beverage Manufacturers to ensure they improve their business processes and can become export ready
- Host inbound trade delegations as well as facilitate domestic and overseas trade shows

- Facilitate group buying deals for machinery, energy and other services
- Work with the Melbourne's North universities and TAFEs on employee skills development, facilitating student placements into industry and connecting them with innovation and R&D facilities such as this one

“The support for this group is reflected in the breadth and depth of the Project Partners:

Victorian Government
Hume City Council
City of Whittlesea
Former Northern RDA
Banyule City Council
City of Darebin
Moreland City Council
Melbourne Polytechnic
Bendigo Kangan Institute
RMIT University
La Trobe University
Melbourne Market Authority
Macpherson Kelley Lawyers
Melbourne Innovation Centre
Matthews Steer
Yarra Valley Water

“The concept of a Melbourne's North Food Group has already attracted the widespread support of Food, Fibre and Beverage manufacturers across the North and their supply chain, with many asking when it is going to start operating”, says Mr James.

“This is a great example of the North taking control of its own destiny - we have seen the decline of traditional manufacturing over past decades and this is an opportunity to back a growing manufacturing subsector with huge export potential.

“We applaud the foresight of Whittlesea and Hume Councils in founding the Plenty Food Group more than a decade ago. The Melbourne's North Food Group now represents the next chapter in this story – it will add four times the amount of resources to grow our food and beverage businesses across all of Melbourne's North.

“We thank the Victorian Government for partnering with us to deliver this project.

“NORTH Link already works successfully with the Victorian Government on a range of projects, including the Jobs Victoria program.

“Projects already booked underway include the Gulfoods trade show to Dubai next week and a Northern Food and Beverage Expo in May”, says Mr James.

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