



Jason Wood MP
Federal Member for La Trobe

MEDIA RELEASE

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Local Industry Support in La Trobe

Jason Wood MP, Federal Member for La Trobe recently invited Minister for Industry and Science, The Hon. Ian Macfarlane MP to La Trobe to visit local farming and manufacturing facilities including APT Engineering in Berwick and Mountain Harvest Foods in Gembrook.

At Mountain Harvest Foods the Minister discussed the Next Generation Manufacturing Investment Programme and the Manufacturing Transition Programme's capacity to aid local manufacturing and farming businesses grow to the next level.

"It's great to see family businesses like Mountain Harvest Foods not only growing their company capability and capacity, but also increasing local employment from three staff in 2009 to 60 casual and full-time staff currently" said Mr Wood.

"With government support through Programmes like the Next Generation Manufacturing Investment and the Manufacturing Transition Programmes, businesses like Mountain Harvest Foods can make that next jump to farming and manufacturing not just for local franchises and direct wholesale – but also to expanding to global markets".

With expected expansion, Mountain Harvest Foods hopes to double their employment of local people in the next 18 months and triple within the next 5 years.

This unique development of a business from potato farming to food processing of niche products for franchises as well as direct wholesale of products like potato cakes, has served as a rejuvenating call to the farming industry in and around La Trobe.

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