

Minister Leon Bignell

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Wednesday, 27 January, 2016

Food Innovation Centre – creating ideas for our booming sector

A new centre to help the state's food and beverage businesses develop and deliver high value, market leading products is now operating from the Waite Campus.

The South Australian Food Innovation Centre - a State Government economic priority commitment – is a collaboration between State Government, industry, universities and research organisations.

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister Leon Bignell said the world was rapidly changing and today's food and beverage industry would be very different to tomorrow's.

"We must adopt new ways to remain competitive," Mr Bignell said.

"The Centre will maximise opportunities for our food and beverage businesses by supporting innovation and encouraging commercialisation of new ideas and products.

"It will help create local jobs, grow South Australia's exports and lead Australia in the development of robust and enduring export markets for our premium food and wine products."

"In 2014–15, South Australia's food and wine industries generated \$18.2 billion in revenue, accounted for 46% of the state's merchandise exports, and employed about 144,000 people or one in five working South Australians.

"The first stage of the Centre is focused on making it easier for food and beverage businesses to find out about, and connect with, the range of services currently provided.

"Businesses will be able to email or call the Centre's dedicated telephone hotline to discuss their innovation needs.

"During the next few months, the foundation partners will help industry adopt new technology and explore how the centre could connect with the Northern Adelaide Food Park."

Partners include Food South Australia, University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, SARDI, the Australian Wine Research Institute, and Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL).

"It is a real coup for South Australia to have FIAL on board and it brings state and national food programs together like never before. It will also assist South Australian businesses to have greater access to federal programs," Mr Bignell said.

For more information contact the centre on 08 8226 0109 or email PIRSA.FoodInnovationCentre@sa.gov.au or visit: www.pir.sa.gov.au/safoodinnovationcentre

Media contact: [Simonne Reid](mailto:Simonne.Reid@sa.gov.au) – 0400 650 951