



**HON TIM WHETSTONE MP**  
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

**DAN CREGAN MP**  
Member for Kavel

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Mount Barker region to enjoy flow-on trade from \$6.96m water investment

A new 500-megalitre recycled water storage facility will boost jobs and future agribusiness expansion in the Mount Barker region, supported by \$1.25 million from the 2019-20 Regional Growth Fund competitive grant program.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone said that it was an important first stage to future agribusiness growth.

“An allocation of \$1.25 million will provide much-needed support for this valuable \$6.96 million project,” said Minister Whetstone.

“During construction, 25 jobs will be delivered, but expansion in the booming agribusiness sector will deliver permanent and seasonal new employment in the region.

“This is the first stage of a project that can ultimately deliver a drought-proof water supply to support irrigated agriculture.

“Investing in infrastructure that enables growth and long-term economic sustainability is vital, and I am glad to be able to support this project.

“I commend the Mount Barker District Council on its commitment to such an important project.”

In the first stage of the project, which is supported by the Regional Growth Fund grant, Mount Barker District Council will deliver a lined, earth bank storage with a capacity up to 500 megalitres as an expansion of the existing recycled water scheme.

The second stage of the project will connect the storage facility to new end users of recycled water, enabling irrigation and increased primary production.

Member for Kavel Dan Cregan said this project will deliver long-term benefits for Mount Barker and the surrounding region.



“Water security and accessibility is vital to growing both agriculture and horticulture and the new recycled water storage facility will be a critical future-proofing piece of infrastructure for Mount Barker,” said Mr Cregan.

“The provision of a sustainable water supply will encourage regional economic growth, with direct new employment, both full time and seasonal, and flow-on jobs in production and processing.”

The Marshall Liberal Government has committed \$150 million over 10 years through the Regional Growth Fund to support regional South Australia as part of the Recharging Our Regions policy.

“The Regional Growth Fund was established to unlock new economic activity in our regions, deliver critical economic infrastructure to create direct benefit across regional industries and strengthen regional communities,” said Minister Whetstone.

In 2019-20, the Regional Growth Fund included a \$5 million allocation for Regional Growth Fund Competitive Grants. Applicants could seek grants from \$50,000 up to \$2 million.

The applications were assessed by an independently chaired panel, and recommended based on how well they aligned to the Fund’s criteria.

For more information, visit [www.pir.sa.gov.au/regionalgrowthfund](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/regionalgrowthfund)