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BESTON PURE FOODS FACTORIES OFFICIALLY RE-OPENED FOR DOMESTIC AND EXPORT PRODUCTION

New jobs, regional opportunities created

The re-opening of Beston Pure Foods at Murray Bridge and Jervois is expected to create some 60 jobs and significant economic benefits for the region.

Both the Murray Bridge and Jervois milk processing factories have been officially re-opened today by Beston Global Food Company (BGFC) Chair, Dr Roger Sexton AM, and SA Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Leon Bignell.

Adelaide-based BGFC came to the rescue of the troubled United Dairy Power by contracting to buy it out of receivership in August with the goal of supplying its quality South Australian milk products to Asia. The factories at Murray Bridge and Jervois have been renamed 'Beston Pure Foods', reflecting the brand under which products from the factories will be sold.

Beston Pure Foods has initially employed 35 staff, all of whom previously worked for United Dairy Power. It is expected employee numbers will increase to about 60 over the next 12 months as the supply of milk to the factory ramps up.

Dr Sexton thanked the management team and staff for their efforts in bringing the factories back into production within such a short time frame.

"A lot of plant maintenance and factory upgrading work which should have been done years ago under the previous ownership had to be done by BGFC in order to gain a new export licence. In fact, over 150 items of work were found to be necessary by the auditors before the new export licence could be issued," Dr Sexton said.

"Within the first three months of production, we have already processed 26 million litres of milk here at Murray Bridge (versus a full year budget of 25 million litres) along with 2600 tonnes of cheese (versus a full year budget of 1400 tonnes). At Jervois, we have produced 700 tonnes of whey powder year to date, versus our full year budget of 270 tonnes.

"We will have our first export of 220 tonnes of cheese to Thailand this month and are in the process of producing our first order of 120 tonnes of cheese for Europe.

"Being able to purchase and revitalise United Dairy Power has been a win-win. BGFC has secured additional dairy resources to feed its growing overseas markets. We make an even greater contribution to realising the State's food export vision, and through our investment we are adding value to a regional economy and keeping local jobs and ownership.



PUBLIC RELATIONS + COMMUNICATION COUNSEL

Level 1, 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide SA 5000 T: 08 8412 4100 F: 08 8224 0089

E: central@hughespr.com.au www.hughespr.com.au

T&V Hughes Pty. Ltd. ACN 055 085 482 ABN 97 055 085 482



“Going forward, we wish to focus more and more on the production of small batch, high end cheese where we can have a unique position in the market and replace the imports of cheese from overseas.”

Minister Bignell said the creation of new jobs would be a huge boost for Murray Bridge and benefit the whole region.

“Fast-growing companies such as Beston are helping to boost the State’s economy,” he said.

“Since debuting on the Australian Stock Exchange in August, Beston has continued to build a portfolio of investments with the view of taking premium clean, green South Australian food and beverage products into global markets, particularly China and Asia.

“It just about ticks every box in our economic plan for the future of South Australia.”

Dr Sexton said that BGFC was working with the SA Government and PIRSA to assist local farmers to increase their on-farm productivity to supply more milk to the factories, along with other raw material ingredients required for the new Beston Pure Foods products.

This will lead to more employment opportunities in the region and help to further cement the global reputation of South Australia as one of the leading producers of premium food and beverage products in the world.

“Our business model is an integrated closed loop supply chain whereby we own the raw materials, take advantage of advanced know-how and technology in the production process, and control the marketing and distribution of the end products through company-owned subsidiaries in key global locations,” Dr Sexton said.

Dr Sexton said BGFC was investing in well established companies in Australia and globally that are producing food and beverage products capable of capitalising on demand driven by massive growth in the world’s population and specifically from the ‘dining boom’ taking place across Asia.

In conjunction with the companies in its portfolio of food and beverage investments, BGFC has created a range of natural, clean and green products, which capitalise on the intrinsic benefits of South Australia as a premium food producer.

These products include high probiotic yoghurt and milk drinks, nutritional supplements and organic beverages, all of which are in high demand in Asia and which will be progressively introduced into production at Murray Bridge and Jervois over the next three years.

FURTHER INFORMATION: www.bestonglobalfoods.com.au

MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Please contact Dr Roger Sexton AM, Executive Chairman, Beston Global Food Company on (08) 8231 2777; Simonne Reid (Minister Bignell) on 0400 650 951

ISSUED BY HUGHES PUBLIC RELATIONS: Please contact:
Mark Williams on (08) 8412 4100 or 0401 147 558. Email: mark@hughespr.com.au