

Media Release

Ms Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Agriculture



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GENERATING JOBS TO HELP THE GOULBURN VALLEY GROW

The Andrews Labor Government is backing the Goulburn Valley food bowl, with three new projects set to create almost 140 new jobs.

Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne Thomas today visited a hydroponic farm in Tatura owned by Flavorite, which is investing in a new multi-million dollar glasshouse thanks to support from the Labor Government's *Regional Jobs Fund*.

Flavorite is a family-owned business and has become one of Australia's largest glasshouse producers of fresh fruit and vegetables. The company can now hire 60 new workers and grow more produce year-round in a temperature and pest-controlled glasshouse.

The project will also help Flavorite to become more sustainable by using world-leading European technology that focuses on reducing CO2 emissions to reduce waste. Flavorite will also increase efficiencies at Tatura with the ability to process and package products on site.

Fruit grower Kalpack has also received support through the *Regional Jobs Fund* and is investing in an organic fruit packing and processing facility that will be the first of its kind in Victoria, sorting fruit by size, ripeness and defects to help reduce waste.

The Government's funding support is giving Kalpack the confidence it needs to establish a \$6 million facility in Shepparton, allowing it to expand its workforce with 50 new full-time workers.

The company is one of three agriculture and manufacturing businesses in the Goulburn Valley to receive funding through the *Regional Jobs Fund*. Manufacturer of farm irrigation systems Padman Stops is expanding into civil construction, helping future-proof the company and create 40 new jobs.

The *Regional Jobs Fund* is part of the Government's flagship *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund* which helps businesses create jobs in regional Victoria, supports community projects and backs councils to build the infrastructure that locals and visitors need.

A new round of the *Regional Jobs Fund* opened earlier this year and will be available throughout 2021 to companies seeking to grow their operations.

The *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund* is part of the Labor Government's almost \$30 billion investment in rural and regional Victoria since 2015. For more information go to rdv.vic.gov.au/rjif.

Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne Thomas

"We are proud to support these outstanding Goulburn Valley companies which are leading the way through innovation – creating more jobs and growing the local economy."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

"The Goulburn Valley is one of Victoria's best fruit and vegetable producers – that's why we are backing projects that give local companies the confidence to grow and create more jobs for the region."

Media contact: Nadia Dimattina 0438 701 306 | Nadia.dimattina@minstaff.vic.gov.au