

Media Release

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



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GROWING VICTORIA'S SMALL-SCALE AND CRAFT BUSINESSES

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting small-scale and craft producers across the state to diversify product lines, expand exports and create new jobs.

Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas today visited BoatShed Cheese in Dromana, a family owned and operated artisan cheese business that produces cow, goat and buffalo milk cheese.

BoatShed Cheese received more than \$7,000 in grant funding through the \$10.2 million *Small-Scale and Craft Program* for the construction of a cheese ageing room and racks for a maturing space which will help the business to diversify its product line and expand into new markets.

The large variety of hand-made cheese is sold at farmer's markets across Melbourne as well as through cafes, restaurants and shops throughout the Mornington Peninsula.

The *Small-Scale and Craft Program* offers grants of between \$25,000 and \$100,000 to eligible small-scale and craft agribusinesses under Stream Three – projects that showcase multiple producers and promote distinct visitor experiences, creating tourist attractions that put regions on the map.

The Labor Government is helping small agribusinesses to grow as part of its Agriculture Strategy, which will boost visitation to regional towns, create jobs and encourage more Victorians to buy local.

The *Small-Scale and Craft Program* is an example of how this is being delivered and supports the vision for a Victorian agriculture sector that is strong, innovative and sustainable.

To find out more about the *Small-Scale and Craft Program* visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/smallscaleandcraftprogram.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas

"Amazing small-scale and craft businesses like BoatShed Cheese attract huge numbers of tourists and locals looking to sample the very best produce regional Victoria has to offer."

"We're backing these businesses because they drive local economies and grow jobs."

Quote attributable to Member for Nepean Chris Brayne

"We are supporting the Mornington Peninsula's small-scale and craft producers to invest in their businesses and develop exciting and unique products which have the potential to become distinct tourist attractions."

Quote attributable to BoatShed Cheese owner Sarah Archard

"The BoatShed Cheese team were thrilled to be successful applicants for this grant, which has allowed us to significantly increase production, fulfil new interstate orders and expand the agri-tourism side of our business."

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