

Media Release

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



Thursday, 23 June 2022

BIG BOOST FOR SMALL PRODUCERS

The Andrews Labor Government is backing small-scale and craft producers to expand their product lines, increase export opportunities and create new jobs.

Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas visited Molly Rose Brewing Co. in Collingwood to encourage agribusinesses to apply for the latest round of the Labor Government's *Small Scale and Craft Program*.

Grants of up to \$15,000 are available for eligible organisations to expand into new markets, scale up their operations, adopt new technology or develop tourism offerings.

The program is already supporting many businesses, including gourmet pie producers, olive growers, sake distillers and alpaca farmers to grow and boost resilience.

Molly Rose Brewing Co. is a craft brewery known for its diverse menu including smoked Japanese dark lager and strawberry-laced sour ale.

In 2020 it received funding through the Program to invest in density and pH meters which help to improve the consistency of their brews.

The company was recently awarded Best Belgian/French Ale at the International Beer Awards for its 'Nectarined' beer that is fermented in barrels of nectarines for nine months.

Since it commenced in 2019, the *Small-Scale and Craft Program* has awarded grants to more than 300 businesses and invested \$6.6 million in the sector. It demonstrates how the Government is delivering its 10-year agriculture strategy to create a sector that is strong, innovative and sustainable.

For more information visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/smallscaleandcraftprogram

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas

"We're backing our small-scale producers because they provide world-class products, create unique experiences and attract visitors to all parts of Victoria, creating more local jobs."

"It's great to see Molly Rose Brewing Co beating the best at the International Beer Awards - it's innovative producers like these that help boost Victoria's reputation for its world-class beverages."

Quote attributable to Member for Richmond Richard Wynne

"We are proud to support our small-scale and craft producers to expand their product lines and support local jobs. This new round of funding will be a big boost for a variety of producers across the state."

Quote attributable to Founder of Molly Rose Brewery Co. Nic Sandery

"We couldn't be prouder to win a trophy for our favourite beer style – Nectarined. It exemplifies the way we like to make beer - using great, local ingredients to make a drink that is nuanced yet undeniably slurpable."

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