

# Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP  
Minister for Industry and Employment



Friday, 12 October 2018

## WORLD CLASS TAPS: MADE IN VICTORIA

The Andrews Labor Government is backing a local award-winning tapware manufacturer, so they can create jobs and boost productivity.

Minister for Industry and Employment Ben Carroll today visited Somerton-based Sussex Taps to announce a \$600,000 *Local Industry Fund for Transition* grant – which will go towards the company's \$4 million expansion.

The upgrade will allow Sussex to create a world-leading manufacturing facility to develop new products with improved function, form and appearance and enter new export markets – creating 20 new jobs.

Headed by 2018 Young Manufacturer of the Year Vanessa Katsanevakis and her husband George, Sussex Taps makes high quality bathroom products that can be customised with different colours, reflective finishes, brushed finishes and even diamonds.

Sussex Taps is the only Australian tap manufacturer that controls the process from start to finish – from melting down brass rods in its in-house foundry, to pouring the metal into the machinery, polishing, coating and then assembling and dispatching.

The company supplies more than 500,000 products through a wide range of retailers across Australia and has had its products featured in every season of the TV show, *The Block*.

The company is currently featuring in the Labor Government's *Made in Victoria* campaign to showcase local manufacturing innovation, expertise and capability.

Victoria's manufacturing industry contributes \$27.7 billion to the Victorian economy, with over 13,000 businesses employing more than 283,000 people. It also exported \$18.16 billion of manufactured goods in 2016-17.

Victorian manufacturing is thriving, recording 17 months of consecutive growth in the Australian Industry Group's Performance Manufacturing Index – the longest run of expansion since 2001.

The growth in manufacturing is backed by the Labor Government's \$130 million in manufacturing support, which is creating over 6,000 jobs and driving \$1.6 billion in private investment.

For more information about Made in Victoria, visit [localjobsfirst.vic.gov.au](http://localjobsfirst.vic.gov.au).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Industry and Employment Ben Carroll

*"Sussex Taps are proudly made in Victoria and because of the Labor Government's support – they'll continue making locally and employing locally."*

*"We'll always back forward-thinking companies like Sussex Taps so they can expand, create jobs and boost our economy."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Broadmeadows Frank McGuire

*"This is a significant investment from the Andrews Labor Government to make our companies world leading, to improve economic development and deliver local jobs for local people where they are needed most."*

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