



Media release

The Hon Dr Denis Naphine MP

Premier
Minister for Regional Cities
Minister for Racing

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Water efficiency project to create jobs in Warragul

One of Australia's largest growers of hydroponic tomatoes, Flavorite, is a step closer to undertaking a major expansion with the completion of a \$1 million water efficiency project.

Premier Denis Naphine was joined by Member for Narracan Gary Blackwood to inspect the project which was partly funded by a \$460,000 grant from the Victorian Coalition Government.

"Flavorite is an integral part of the local community, generating 205 full time jobs, \$33 million in turnover and 9,000 tonnes of produce last year," Dr Naphine said.

"This water efficiency project will help enable the company to double its turnover and workforce over the next five years as it moves towards a 5.7 hectare expansion.

"This expansion is a huge project that will deliver massive employment and economic benefits for Warragul and the surrounding communities.

"That is why we are pleased to have contributed a \$460,000 grant towards the \$996,000 project to help Flavorite secure its water supply and increase its water efficiency," Dr Naphine said.

The Flavorite Water Efficiency Project includes:

- construction of a new 50 mega litre lined and covered dam;
- installation of new water filtration equipment;
- installation of new sterilisation equipment; and
- other ancillary works.

Mr Blackwood said the project would make Flavorite's expansion more viable through reduced input costs.

"Field grown tomatoes require about 60 litres of water per kilogram of production while Flavorite currently uses approximately 23 litres per kilogram of tomatoes produces," Mr Blackwood said.

"This project will help Flavorite recycle and reuse even more water, bringing their water use down to 18 litres per kilogram of tomatoes."

Dr Naphine said the Coalition Government was providing funding for the project through its flagship Regional Growth Fund.

"We are committed to creating jobs in regional Victoria by partnering with industry to expand, reduce input costs and cut red tape," Dr Naphine said.

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