



Local winery's \$300,000 boost

A \$300,000 State Government subsidy will allow Kingston Estates Wines to continue its plan to increase production at its Riverland facility.

The money will be used to help fund a power supply upgrade at the Kingston-On-Murray site.

The funding was obtained under the government's Regional Development Infrastructure Fund, which aims to boost employment, investment, export earnings and population growth.

"This is very welcome news," said Kingston Estates Wines managing director Bill Moularadellis.

"We are committed to a power supply

upgrade at our Kingston-On-Murray site and this is a 50 per cent subsidy to the \$600,000 ETSA augmentation charge the company is about to incur.

"The power supply upgrade is part of the company's \$9.3 million staged investment strategy over the next five years to increase production by 60 per cent to 100,000 tonnes per annum."

Mr Moularadellis said Kingston Estates exports over 80 per cent of its production and sees the investment as "a strong signal" that it intends to continue to grow its export sales.

"The region's viability is being threatened by an overall reduction in demand for wine grapes and we are playing an

increasing role in maintaining market access for Riverland wine," he said.

"We hope to continue to help preserve the region's dominance as Australia's largest wine growing region.

"The Riverland produces more than half of all the wine grapes grown in South Australia and the current industry supply imbalance poses a real challenge to the region."

Regional Development Minister Paul Caica said the money was an investment towards the future expansion of the business, which he described as a "major Riverland employer".

He said Kingston Estates had developed in the past four years from a 30,000 tonne facility

to a 60,000 tonne crush facility.

"Our Regional Development Infrastructure Fund grant recognizes the impact that the winery's further expansion has on its ability to grow its business and staff numbers, contributing to the development of the Riverland," Mr Caica said.

The Kingston Estates project is one of five chosen for assistance totalling \$780,000 in the government's latest round of Regional Development Infrastructure Fund grants.

Mallee town Parilla also benefited from the grants, with \$52,000 allocated to Parilla Premium Potatoes to assist with upgrading electricity infrastructure.



Kingston Estates Wines managing director Bill Moularadellis said a \$300,000 State Government subsidy was 'welcome news'. PHOTO: Erin Jones



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Support for local expansion plans

MINISTER for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Paul Caica has announced two sets of funding to go to the region from the Regional Development Infrastructure Fund.

The first is a grant of up to \$300,000 towards expansion plans at Kingston Estate Wines.

"The grant recognises the impact that the winery's further expansion has on its abili-

ty to grow its business and staff numbers, contributing to the development of the Riverland," Minister Caica said.

Parilla Horticulture was the second recipient, receiving a \$52,000 grant, also for its expansion.

"The expansion will result in the creation of 10 jobs and generate an additional \$3.5 million to the state's economy," Minister Caica said.