



AFD's Camperdown hub

AUSSIE Farmers Direct will use Camperdown's former Bonlac factory as the hub of its new nationwide operation.

The announcement of the \$5.45 million project was made last week.

The state government contributed \$700,000 towards the cost, while Corangamite Shire Council says the project could boost the shire's reputation as the backbone of Victoria's dairy

industry.

The company aims to process up to 20 million litres of milk in its first year of operation.

But the project has not been given the official greenlight, with the company still reviewing a council planning permit. It expects to confirm details in July.

Council granted the company an exception from any increase in

rates attributable to valuation increases at the site, from AFD's redevelopment and investment. Mayor Matt Makin said the shire already had the second highest agricultural output of all Australian shires. He said the project was an example of what could be achieved when private enterprise, councils and governments worked to-

gether in regional Victoria. "The creation of 100 direct jobs within five years, along with the forecast \$36.6 million increase to the shire's gross regional product, will provide Camperdown and the wider Camperdown community with an exciting boost," Mr Makin said.



NATIONWIDE: Aussie Farmers Direct chief executive officer Peter Skene, left, with Braeden Lord. The company last week announced it would use Camperdown's former Bonlac factory site as its hub.