



Factory a little bottler

Camperdown's economy received a welcome shot in the arm this week thanks to a \$700,000 grant to help reopen the town's disused dairy factory.

Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney announced the funding at yesterday's official launch of the much anticipated Aussie Farmers Dairy project.

The funding comes on top of Aussie Farmers Dairy's intention to spend \$5.45 million to redevelop the Camperdown factory.

Ms Tierney said the Government saw the value of the project in retaining and expanding businesses and investment in Camperdown.

"This project means Camperdown has a new and brighter future," she said.

"It will secure jobs in the town, it will attract further investment and it will make this region more sustainable.

"There will be economic benefits for the region and the wider state."

Ms Tierney said Camperdown was the perfect location for the Aussie

Farmers Dairy project because it was at the heart of a region which produced "a staggering" 23 per cent of the nation's milk output.

Aussie Farmers Dairy chief executive officer Peter Skene was visibly pleased Camperdown would be the hub of the company's bottled milk production.

"It is the heartland of the nation's dairying country," he said.

"The site is 110-115 years old and has a long history of milk production – a history Aussie Farmers Dairy is proud to continue."

Mr Skene, born and bred in Camperdown and himself a former Bonlac Foods employee at the site, said he was delighted to see "new life breathed into the site".

"It has been a lot of hard work, with a lot of blood, sweat and tears shed," he said.

"And the support of locals has been phenomenal, from the Corangamite Shire Council to people on the street – it truly has been overwhelming."

Shire mayor Matt Makin described the launch as a "milestone" for Camp-

erdown.

"Our shire has many strategies in place to welcome and support new businesses and economic growth," he said.

"Without growth our towns wouldn't exist and we wouldn't be able to provide the level of services we do.

"This project is a prime example of what can be achieved when private enterprise, councils and governments work together in regional Victoria."

Cr Makin said the Corangamite Shire's agricultural output would top \$600 million this financial year, the second highest of any local government in Australia.

"It's figures like those that we lobby the Federal and State Government's with for funding," he said.

Aussie Farmers Dairy plans to begin operations at the Camperdown factory later this year with two eight-hour shifts, five days a week.

Production is then expected to increase to a 24 hour, seven day a week operation with 100,000 litres of milk produced daily.



Aussie Farmers Direct chief executive officer Braeden Lord, Corangamite Shire Mayor Matt Makin, Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney and Aussie Farmers Dairy chief executive officer Peter Skene at the company's official Camperdown launch yesterday. 20100.



Aussie Farmers Dairy chief executive officer Peter Skene addresses the crowd. 20100.