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Factory jobs boost

by Brett Worthington

A rejuvenated south-west Victorian milk processing plant will process up to 100,000 litres a day when it reopens after closing a decade ago.

Dairy company Aussie Farmers Direct has received \$700,000 in State Government grants to revamp the former Camperdown Bonlac factory.

Camperdown-born Aussie Farmers Direct chief executive officer Peter Skene said the company would initially hire 30 staff and process 100,000 litres of milk a day at capacity.

He said the factory would employ up to 100 during the next five years.

“Our entry into what is a consolidating farm-level milk purchasing market will not only benefit local dairy farmers...”

PETER SKENE

Mr Skene said the factory would boost Corangamite Shire's gross regional product by \$36.6 million within five years.

He said “our entry into what is a consolidating farm-level milk purchasing market will not only benefit local dairy farmers by providing a greater choice of buyers, it will support local jobs”.

The Camperdown Bonlac factory closed in June 2000 and the company later merged with dairy conglomerate Fonterra.

De Cicco Industries bought Camperdown's Bonlac dairy factory in 2003 and had placed a planning permit application to the Corangamite Shire Council to reopen the factory in 2008.

Aussie Farmers Direct has since leased the building from De Cicco and launched its re-vamp on Thursday.

Mr Skene said the factory would operate five days a week and start with two eight-hour shifts, with the option to grow to 24-hour production.