



Media release

ANDREW KATOS MP

Member for South Barwon

Friday, 24 October 2014

Geelong South company wins technology grant to boost business efficiencies

The Victorian Coalition Government has awarded Godfrey Hirst (Australia) Pty Ltd a \$250,000 new technology grant to help boost productivity at its Geelong South facility.

The Member for South Barwon Andrew Katos along with Paula Kontelj, Liberal Candidate for Geelong today congratulated the carpet manufacturing business for its success in winning a grant under the Victorian Coalition Government's *Investing in Manufacturing Technology* (IMT) program.

"Godfrey Hirst will use the grant to purchase two new advanced systems to improve the carpet dyeing process and enhance productivity at its Geelong South facility," Mr Katos said.

The companies were among the latest 33 Victorian manufacturers awarded a total \$6.1 million in IMT grants recently announced by the Minister for Manufacturing David Hodgett.

"Since the Coalition Government established the IMT program in 2012, we have awarded a total of \$20.2 million to 114 Victorian manufacturing companies to encourage and support them to invest a combined \$94.8 million in new technologies," Mr Hodgett said.

The IMT program has proved highly successful in supporting Victorian manufacturing companies with grants of up to \$250,000 to invest in new technologies to enhance their business performance and provide significant benefits to the Victorian and local economies.

"With support from our IMT program, Victorian manufacturers have created a total of 700 new jobs and transitioned another 730 jobs to higher value roles. Significantly, these projects are expected to generate a combined \$119 million in new exports."

Liberal Candidate for Geelong, Paula Kontelj welcomed the funding to support local manufacturing companies.

"Godfrey Hirst is an important manufacturing company for Geelong with a rich history and the funding will allow them to continue to improve their manufacturing processes and excel in their business," Ms Kontelj said.

These initiatives build on *Victorian Jobs in the 21st Century*, which commits \$274 million to grow Victorian manufacturing, particularly in the high-end and knowledge-intensive sectors such as pharmaceutical manufacturing, food production, nanotechnology and robotics.

The plan will create 200,000 new jobs, 60,000 new apprenticeships and 850,000 new training places.

The plan also includes the \$30 million *Manufacturing, Innovation and Technology Fund* which will help businesses meet the cost of sourcing professional expertise in research, design, engineering and technology.

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