



Australian Animal & Aquatics Centre of Excellence

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Great South Coast Food and Fibre Council | Great South Coast | August 2017

Introduction

The Great South Coast's Food and Fibre Industry is the powerhouse in Victoria's food and fibre sector with the largest exports of sheep and beef meat, wool and milk products. Animal industries in this region fuel and drive the agricultural output and indeed the export and processing industries for the State in milk, with meat and wool close behind.

In 2014–15, the gross value of agricultural production in the Great South Coast region was \$2.4 billion, which was 19 per cent of the total gross value of agricultural production in Victoria (\$13.1 billion). Victoria provides ~ 25% of Australia gross rural output.

Animal industries have a long history in the region having developed to being the best in class with high quality genetics, production capability second to none and with a predominantly export focus.

The Proposal

**Proposal is to establish in The Great South Coast Region the:
"Australian Animal & Aquatics Centre of Excellence"**

This centre would be created around Warrnambool's Deakin Campus. There will be linkages to the export Port at Portland and this hub approach will capitalise on the diversity, expertise and export performance of the current animal based industries and centres around our GSC towns of Colac and Hamilton.

In line with Federal and State policy to encourage decentralisation away from capital cities to build regions, this proposal will involve locating federal decision makers where the action is. Along with the economic impetus this relocation will create across the region there will be a capacity build of expertise that will unlock more of the latent growth potential in the GSC's animal and aquatic industries.

- This will involve the transferring out of capital cities, particularly Canberra, parts of the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources animal health, aquatic and biosecurity departments. This will include, animal and aquatic

biosecurity (import and Export), Animal and Aquaculture Policy, Food export accreditation and supervision and development of International protocols, agreements.

- This Centre of Excellence for aquatic health and aquaculture will be built around and utilise Deakin University's capacity and reputation in aquatics and aquaculture.
- This will become the food export centre for policy development, certification of our export food industries and control of animal food exports from processing. In fact the centre for all management and certification of export and import of prescribed and non prescribed foods.
- There is the commercial potential embedded within this proposal for the creation of a centre of excellence with a commercial and trade focus on the Export, Import and Development of our highly marketable genetics from across our diverse animal production industries. This has the potential to be "a one stop shop" to the globe for the best animal genetics that Australia and this region has to offer.
- This will provide a shopfront for overseas customers wanting our superior genetics and as an avenue for our commercial producers to reach the world to offer the superior genetics we have.

Compelling Reasons

There are a number of compelling reasons that underpin the Proposal:-

- This is an area with the “strongest diversified animal focus” across Australia
- Close to grass roots agriculture as you can get in a large production and export zone for dairy, meat, wool, live export and genetics export.
- Number 1 area for Agriculture production output in Victoria and 3rd in the Country, with 82% of the GSC's production coming from diversified animal production with the region having highest export performance in Victoria for processed dairy and meat products and when forest fibre is included the largest exporter of any single region.
- Over 83% of direct private land ownership used for Agriculture with the Capacity to grow volume output of food through intensification and productivity gains.
- The best and most developed pool of animal genetics in Australia in Dairy, Sheep for wool and meat and Beef cattle.
- Access and Location to Regions is no longer an impediment to decentralisation, in the digital age, with conferencing and communication in real time now a given.
- Proximity of animal health laboratories in Geelong.
- COE would become a showcase and “Shop Window” to the world for Australian animal genetics (both live and genetic material).
- Deep water port with track record in export of livestock with existing arrangements around biosecurity and export protocols in place.
- Home to successful and Iconic food exporters in Dairy and Meat.
- Home to a significant number of successful producers of superior genetics presently exporting.
- Existing facilities to be used with significant infrastructure capacity available at Deakin University (Warrnambool)
- World class research expertise in the area of aquaculture and aquatics
- Significant commercial aquaculture production in abalone within the region
- Wool scourers and wool textile operation in the region and adjoining region.
- Huge history as a wool producing and trading hub for Australia.

Federal Departments

Animal Biosecurity

The Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) and Biosecurity Animal Division facilitate the development of national policies and strategies and the provision of scientific advice to minimise the potential impacts of diseases on Australia's animal health.

Biosecurity - agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity

Geelong Laboratory

Regions Specialty in Livestock – Sheep – wool & meat, Beef, Dairy

Aquatic Animal Health

Aquatic animals, like terrestrial animals and humans, can be affected by infectious diseases, which may be caused by pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa and parasites. Infection and disease in aquatic animals is normal, but can become severe under certain conditions. Such conditions can include the introduction of new diseases to a population; or conditions that promote disease, such as host animal stress.

<http://agriculture.gov.au/animal/aquatic>

Deakin Specialty

Biosecurity and International protocols regarding Marine Animal pest incursion

To protect our marine environment and industries, the Australian and state/territory governments, along with marine industries and marine scientists are implementing Australia's National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions (the National System)

agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/marine-pests

Deakin Specialty

Exporting Live Animals and Genetic material

Live animal exports include commercial livestock species, companion and assistance animals, horses, and genetic material.

agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/live-animals

Great South Coast –Portland (Dairy, Sheep)

Genetic exports – Chrome, Total Livestock Genetics

Animal Health

Australia's state and territory governments have primary responsibility for animal welfare and laws to prevent cruelty. The Australian Government is responsible for trade and international agreements relating to animal welfare.

We work with exporters to maintain international export standards.

Geelong and Werribee

Controlled export Goods (prescribed)

Dairy products, Eggs and egg products, Fish and fish products
Non- Prescribed

Non-prescribed goods are all other goods. These include, but are not limited to, animal by-products, wool, skins and hides, inedible blood, rendered meats, pet food, processed foods, honey, cosmetics, nutritional supplements and rendered fats and oils. Some products fall into unexpected categories; for example, icecream is deemed to be a non-prescribed good rather than a dairy product.

Dairy exporters (WCB, Fonterra, MG

Fish – Deakin Specialty

Exporting meat and meat products

The Export Meat Program provides inspection, verification and certification services to the export meat industry in Australia

agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/meat

Midfield - Largest Independent meat processor

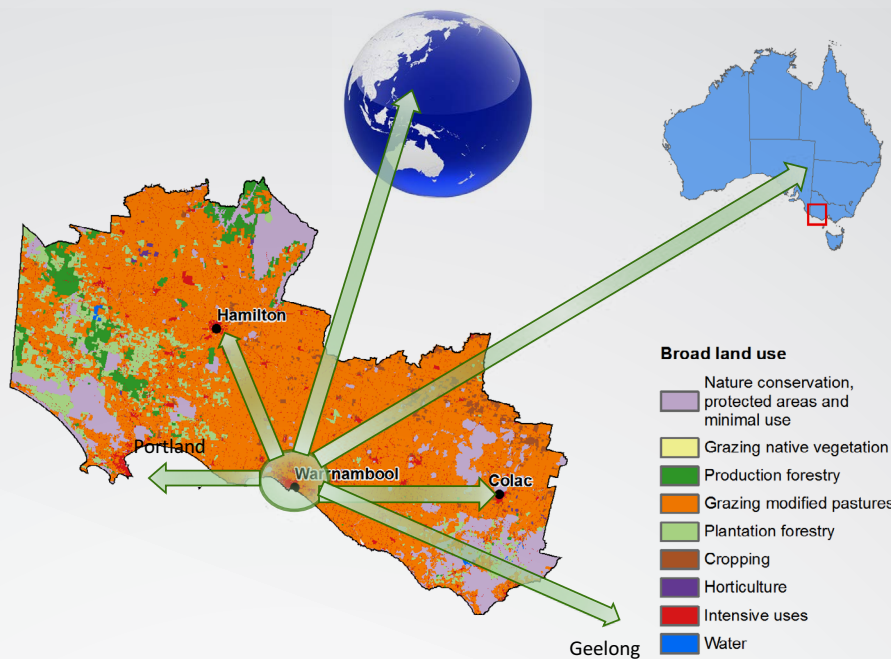
Agriculture and Food

The department develops policy and provides services to improve the productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and related industries. Region in Adoption of genetics and farm BP programs Dairy, Wool, Food

Largest Dairy Industry – Large Milk Processors and Exporters

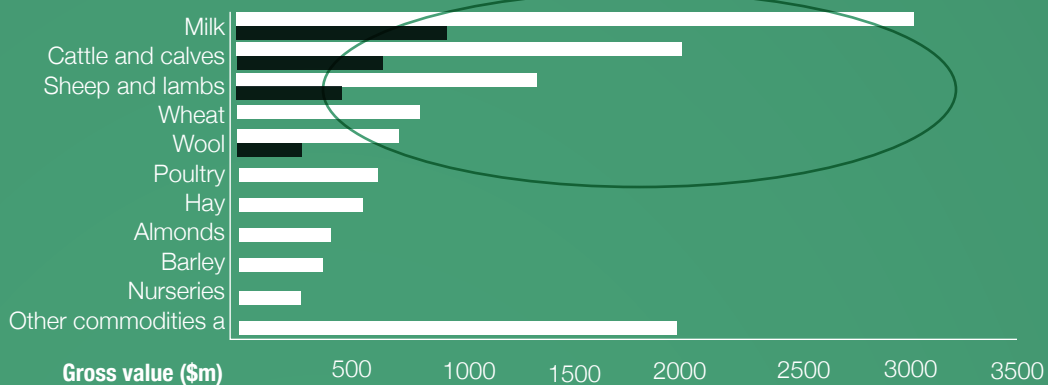
Large Beef & Sheep and exporters

The Region - Shires of Southern Grampians, Warrnambool, Corangamite, Moyne, Colac Otway and Glenelg



- Highest level of private land ownership (farms) in Victoria
- 6 Highly Productive shires with wealth built around Food and Fibre Production

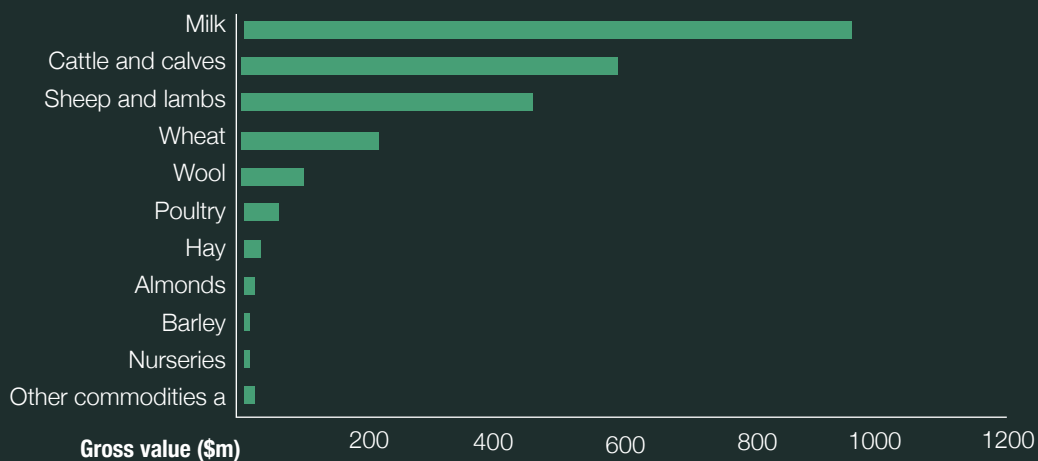
Value of agricultural production, Victoria, 2014-15



In 2014-15, the gross value of agricultural production in Victoria was \$13.1 billion, which was 25 per cent of the total gross value of agricultural production in Australia (\$53.6 billion). Animal industries in Victoria contribute 7.4 billion

■ GSC

Great South Coast Food and Fibre Output 2014-15



In 2014-15, the gross value of agricultural production in the Great South Coast region was \$2.4 billion, which was 19 per cent of the total gross value of agricultural production in Victoria (\$13.1 billion). Animal industries together contributed 82 per cent of the total value of agricultural production in the region.



Food and Fibre Action Plan - *Realising the Opportunity*

Australian Animal & Aquatics **Centre of Excellence**