



MEDIA RELEASE

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DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION LODGED FOR PROTEIN PRODUCTION HUB AT COOMINYA

A Development Application has been lodged with Somerset Regional Council for Stage 1 of a multi-million dollar protein production hub in the Brisbane Valley.

Brisbane Valley Protein Precinct Pty Ltd (BVPP) plans to develop the project on more than 1100 hectares on West Road at Coominya. BVPP is a family-owned company, stretching back through four generations of farmers in the region.

BVPP Director Duncan Brown said the project would be a staged development that included RSPCA accredited intensive livestock production with poultry and game birds, meat processing, training, research and hospitality facilities. The BVPP site is designated as the Coominya Food Production Investigation Area under Somerset Regional Council's Strategic Framework.

"Our hope is that the Brisbane Valley Protein Precinct will be one of the first dedicated protein production hubs in Australia, with on-site training and R&D facilities," Mr Brown said.

"While the project will deliver on state and local government visions for a strategic food production area, locals have told us they are most excited by the project's training and job opportunities.

"In our discussions with local school principals and local food-related businesses, we have focused on creating pathways and opportunities to link school students with training that will engage them in the whole food production process, from hatching a quail to feeding consumers and exporting to Asia."

Mr Brown said the area's food production was a major employer which would only increase.

"While we have just started the development application process and are still some time away from any construction, we are confident this development can equip the next generation for the immense opportunities associated with putting food on the plates of emerging middle classes in Asia and beyond," Mr Brown said.

BVPP has already attracted new international capital to Queensland and is the first Australian agricultural investment for South African investment house Safika Holdings.

Mr Brown said the Stage 1 DA sought to develop, to RSCPA standards, eight poultry sheds and a 'hatch to dispatch' quail operation, including nine quail sheds and an export-accredited quail processing facility with the capacity to process up to 10,000 birds per week, in a partnership with a premium NSW quail producer.

"The sites for the Stage 1 facilities were chosen after extensive environmental modelling to ensure our operations will be in the optimal location for the local area," Mr Brown said.

"Stage 1 will also include the restoration and rehabilitation of Spring Creek, which runs through our property and into the Brisbane River, and the commencement of a Certificate IV livestock/food production training program for which we have already held positive discussions with local high schools to develop training pathways for students."

Mr Brown said Stage 1 would generate a significant number of jobs for the region as part of the overall project's intent to create about 200 full time positions in the Brisbane Valley - with a focus on local and youth employment - and support several hundred indirect jobs in the region through extensive supply chain requirements.

"Subsequent to this Stage 1 Development Application, BVPP will be seeking Preliminary Approval under the Sustainable Planning Act for our overall master plan and we expect to lodge that application with the State Government in the near future."

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About BVPP

BVPP Director Duncan Brown is a Queensland businessman who combines his love of farming and agriculture with social purpose objectives. His experience in agribusiness encompasses cattle, poultry and property development across south east Queensland while his community and not-for-profit bona fides include founder and chairman of youth advocacy group the Artesian Foundation.

BVPP Director Selena Gomersall is a registered psychologist and both a founder and the clinical director of Outback Futures, a not-for-profit mental and allied health services provider to rural and remote Queenslanders. She and Duncan are siblings.

Duncan and Selena's connection to the land and their family history of pioneering Queensland farming and food production in the region goes back four generations to the early 1900s.

About Safika Holdings

Safika Holdings is a significant minority shareholder in BVPP and a South African-based investment house with interests across the industrial, financial services, mining and exploration, commodity marketing, transport and logistics, online education, health, property, communications and aerospace sectors.

Safika's executive includes some of South Africa's most prominent business and political identities, having worked closely with former President Nelson Mandela.

The company's other Australian interests include Melbourne-based private investment and advisory firm The Wingate Group, online training provider Learning Seat, and TrakkaCorp a manufacturer of high powered searchlights for airborne, marine and land-based operations.

BVPP is the first Australian agricultural investment for Safika.

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