Food Industry Innovation Precinct

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Australia
The food and beverage manufacturing industry is Australia’s biggest manufacturing sector by gross value add.

$27 billion worth of goods were exported in 2011–12, including meat and seafood, bread making, sugar, confectionary and beverage manufacturing.

In 2011–12 the industry had more than 227,000 employees and over 13,000 businesses.

- Small to medium enterprises made up almost 99 per cent of businesses.
What is a Food Industry Innovation Precinct?

- The Food Precinct will bring together industry, universities, researchers and governments to support the Australian food manufacturing industry.

- It is one of two precincts announced as part of the Government’s $1 billion ‘Plan for Australian Jobs.’

- Its focus will be on innovation, collaboration and capability development along the whole food supply chain.

- The Food Precinct will be located in Melbourne, to take advantage of established networks of industry and research in the area.

Why Do We Need a Food Precinct?

"Australia has one of the best education and research systems in the world - but we must do better at translating this advantage into business success" - Minister for Industry and Innovation, Greg Combet

- The Food Precinct will help generate greater economic and business dividends resulting from industry-led research.

- By promoting collaboration among researchers, industry and government, the Food Precinct will:
  - help our small businesses to grow, employ more people and compete and thrive in world markets.
  - improve industry capacity and capability to understand consumer needs, particularly in the Asian market.
Aims of the Food Precinct

- Encourage the food industry to become more commercially targeted and sustainable.
- Accelerate the growth of Australian food and beverage firms along the supply chain by boosting training, networking and collaboration across Australia.
- Help take advantage of the growing population in Asia and increased consumer demand.
- Work to achieve the innovations our businesses need to succeed in the future — turning new ideas and inventions into lucrative Australian products, services and exports.

How Will the Precinct Help Businesses?

The Precinct will assist firms to:

- Link into the activities of precinct partners and provide a commercially focused client experience
- Access pilot facilities and expertise for product development
- Develop international collaborations with overseas firms and research institutions
- Access new supply chains
Food Precinct Development

- The food precinct will be industry led with an independent chairperson from the industry.

- Consultations are currently taking place throughout Australia. The aim of these sessions is to:
  - discuss the Food Precinct and the opportunities it affords stakeholders in the nation’s food supply chain.
  - help to form a consortium of partners across industry, research organisations, educational institutes and industry associations.

- It is anticipated that the Food Precinct will officially begin in July, 2013.