

Media Release



5 October 2020

VFF WELCOMES FUNDING TO BUILD SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) welcomes the Federal Government's \$1.5 billion dollar investment into local manufacturing, including \$107.2 million dollar spend to address supply chain vulnerabilities.

VFF Grains Group President Ashley Fraser said this would provide a vital opportunity to identify and address vulnerabilities within our crucial agricultural production supply chains.

"While Australia is a net exporter of food and fibre, our reliance on overseas inputs was highlighted during this year's sowing season when many farmers experienced delays accessing chemicals and fertilisers."

"COVID-19 has really exposed the vulnerabilities that exist in our critical supply chains."

"We need to use this opportunity to explore ways we can improve our grain production security through domestic manufacturing, domestic reserves and diversified supply chains," Mr Fraser said.

The VFF says the funding for the local manufacturing industry will not only help enable Victorian farmers add value to their world class product, but create much needed local employment.

"Increasing our domestic manufacturing capability is a win-win."

"It creates local employment opportunities and improves Australia's important supply chain resilience."

"With food and beverages identified one of the key priority areas of domestic manufacturing investment, there is a fantastic opportunity to add value to our products," Mr Fraser said.

ENDS

Media Contacts:

Ashley Fraser, VFF Grains Group President, 0418 176 764

Ryan Moloney, VFF, 0400 874 589

Farrer House 24-28 Collins Street Melbourne 3000

Ph. 1300 882 833 | Fax. 03 9207 5500 | E-mail. vff@vff.org.au | www.vff.org.au