

Media Release

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Kyneton's Hardwicks Meats joins Kilcoy Global Foods

VICTORIA's Kyneton-based beef and lamb processor Hardwicks Meats and Queensland based billion-dollar global beef processor, Kilcoy Global Foods (KGF), have joined forces.

The exciting, historic deal which has been approved by the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) promises to create significant growth opportunities for Hardwicks Meats and the Victorian livestock industry, while delivering industry-leading product, packaging, environmental and technology advantages to customers around the world.

The KGF and Hardwick agreement, which promises to realise the full potential of the Victorian processing operation, will see joint managing directors, Luke and James Hardwick, remain with the company during a transition period.

“Our parents Gary and Vikki founded Hardwicks Meats almost 50 years ago and today we are excited to join the Kilcoy Global Foods family,” said Luke Hardwick.

“We are two complementary businesses, with similar values and goals, uniting under the global KGF banner. KGF will facilitate a capital injection to modernise our Kyneton plant leading to increased production, and from that an increase in the local workforce, which is great news for Kyneton and Victoria.

“Hardwicks is excited to be part of KGF's \$1.5 billion global nature-to-plate food solutions operation that supplies food service and retail customers across Australia, the United States, Asia Pacific and the Middle East.

“It's an exciting time for our business and together with the senior KGF team, we have been briefing industry and supplier stakeholders, with the highest priority given to the 400-strong workforce at the Kyneton processing plant, all of whom will be retained,” Luke said.

KGF President Australian Division, Jiah Falcke said KGF identified Hardwicks as an ideal partner for its existing operations in Australia and overseas, due to its offer of high-quality products, service excellence and established national and export markets.



“There’s a lot of synergies between both businesses, Hardwicks is a tier 1 plant and Kilcoy is a tier 2 plant and both businesses sell 100% Halal and MSA operations with KGF a premium beef processor while Hardwicks processes beef, lamb and goat.

“Over the last five years KGF have invested over \$150 million upgrading the Kilcoy plant, and have hired an additional 700 team members taking the workforce to nearly 1,700 staff who operate two shifts a day 7 days a week on the processing floor.

“KGF enjoys a strong relationship with its workforce and we will work with Luke and James and their management team to ensure a smooth transition across all levels of the business,” Mr Falcke said.

Mr Falcke confirmed KGF has no immediate plans to change the Hardwick name, with similar subsidiaries across the world continuing to operate under founding names.

“Like KGF, Hardwicks is instantly recognisable and highly respected both by producers and customers who equally stand to benefit from the new partnership. We’ve reinforced that all jobs will be maintained and we’ll look to employ more staff as we expand. Hardwick’s commitment to existing local community partnerships will also continue,” said Mr Falcke.

KGF exports 75% of its Australian product to over 35 global markets and its vision is to expand into value added processing with meal solution products across both retail and food service channels.

Mr Falcke paid tribute to the Hardwick family who started a small business that grew into a multi-million-dollar operation with export markets around the world.

“For Victoria’s economy, the Hardwicks Kyneton team and the producers that supply the operation, this is the next step in their successful journey as we grow the business and feed the global community.

“We are also fully committed to be an industry leader in sustainability and waste management with 80% of electricity used at Kilcoy self-generated through waste bio generation and services 100% of hot water demand on site,” Mr Falcke added.

Hardwicks will also benefit from KGF’s commitment to research and development, including a patent-pending labelling system that allows scanners to read data tagged on product inside the box, a breakthrough for the export market which is seeking trackable data on the nature and origin of product.



KGF has also partnered with Meat & Livestock Australia and the Australian Meat Processor Corporation to launch an Innovation Hub at its Sunshine Coast headquarters.

The Hub is designed to simulate global best practice in food service and retail testing facilities. It features virtual reality and classroom learning, a meat processing operation and a full theatre kitchen.

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For further information visit
www.kilcoyglobalfoods.com.au
www.hardwicks.com.au

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Background facts Kilcoy Global Foods and Hardwicks Meats

- Kilcoy Global Foods is a \$1.5 billion nature-to-plate food solutions company that supplies food service and retail customers through operations in Australia, the United States and China.
- KGF's global headquarters are located on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, which is also home of the KGF Innovation Hub.
- In Australia, the company operates the Kilcoy meatworks and distributes premium beef brands to a large domestic customer base, while exporting product to over 35 countries.
- KGF identified Hardwicks as an ideal partner for its existing operations in Australia and overseas, due to its offer of high-quality products, service excellence and established export markets.
- KGF intends to leverage the strengths of both companies to expand opportunities for the Australian livestock industry, from production through to processing and distribution.
- Australian-produced foods are highly valued in overseas markets and KGF's ability to add Hardwicks's lamb, beef and goat products will grow the export potential for Australian-grown meats.



- KGF plans to retain all Hardwicks staff and the company's two joint managing directors will remain during a transition period to ensure the smooth transfer of ownership and operation.
- KGF forecasts that new employment and broader industry opportunities will arise as a result of an expanding customer base in Australia and overseas.
- Hardwicks Meats direct ships through a fleet of company delivery vehicles to customers across Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland.
- Kilcoy Global Foods Australian operation employs almost 1,700 people at its processing plant, working two shifts 24 hours 7 days a week.
- Hardwicks Meats Kyneton employs approximately 400 people.