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NEWSFRONT



IDEAL SPOT: Tassal's Justin O'Connor on the site where a fish byproduct processing facility will be built at Triabunna..

Picture: LUKE BOWDEN

Tassal factory comes to Triabunna's aid

NICK CLARK

FINALLY some good news for Triabunna with Federal Government grants kick-starting a fish oil factory and golf course.

The small town of Triabunna has dealt with the closure of its woodchip mill in 2011 and its mayor describing some of its inhabitants as the most bogan of bogans, but now things are looking up.

Tassal has received a \$3.85 million Federal Government grant towards a \$5 million,

20,000-tonne-a-year fish byproduct processing facility.

Tassal's head of engineering and risk, Justin O'Connor, said the facility would be built on farm land about 4km north of Triabunna, chosen for its largely underused water resources, good transport links and irrigation land availability.

"The facility will be a major benefit to local skilled employment in an area that had been severely impacted by the downturn in the forestry industry," he said.

"We estimate that the project will generate about 30 jobs during the construction phase and 20 jobs when it is operational.

"It also represents a significant investment by Tassal into the local economy.

"Where possible, Tassal is hoping to source construction services and materials locally."

In a further boost, the Liberal Government will provide \$3 million to assist the development of the Solis Louisville Golf Course.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Guy Barnett said \$15 million would be provided in both 2015-16 and 2016-17 to fund public infrastructure costs, which had left the project stagnant.

And, Federal Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane also launched an \$11 million Innovation and Investment Fund for Tasmania yesterday.

Applications will be assessed to ensure they represent value for money.

"This fund is an important

part of a regional economic diversification package for Tasmania and will support local businesses to deliver sustainable industry opportunities, help diversify Tasmania's economy and create new jobs," Bass MP Andrew Nikolic said.

The latest announcements follow a \$1.25 million grant towards a \$2.4 million project at Juicy Isle at Cambridge on Wednesday.

The funds are all part of the \$106 million Tasmanian Jobs and Growth plan.