

MEDIA STATEMENT

Oat processors in WA offered bespoke business development support

Companies looking to set up new oat processing projects in Western Australia, or expand current operations, can now access the services of a dedicated consultant to support business development.

The consultant is being funded by the [Processed Oat Partnership \(POP\)](#), an industry-led program supported by the State Government which will provide a foundation for growth in the oat industry over the next 20 years. The Grain Industry Association of WA (GIWA) is the lead program partner in the POP, in association with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

GIWA Executive Officer Peter Nash says the initial role of the consultant is to support oat processors who are looking to access State and Federal Government grants.

“Government grants processes can be time-consuming and when growing businesses are focused on getting new projects off the ground, they may not have the capacity to fully explore all relevant grant opportunities,” Mr Nash said.

“To address this the POP has hired a consultant who not only has experience with government grants, but has also worked in the grains industry,” Mr Nash said.

The consultant, John Connell, has extensive experience in business development and economics gained from many years in senior positions within government and private industry in the agriculture and resource sectors, and more recently as a business development consultant to both small and large businesses in the dairy, horticulture and grains sectors.

John’s role will include:

- Helping to determine which grant programs are most suitable for the business’ needs
- Providing advice on what information is required to maximise grant application success
- Reviewing draft applications and ensuring the application contains all required information.

“This bespoke advice will give oat processors a real advantage when developing government grant applications and it also supports the POP’s aim of increasing the production of processed oats in WA,” Mr Nash said.

To access this service contact admin@giwa.org.au. All discussions will be considered commercial-in-confidence.

About the Processed Oat Partnership

The State Government is investing \$10.12 million in the POP, which aims to increase the WA production of processed oats, grain yield and hectares sown, and support industry to capture a greater share of growing international demand for oat products. To support this the POP is co-funding projects including:

- *Global standard WA-specific breeding programs that are responsive to market needs*
- *Targeted on-farm productivity and capacity research*
- *New product development, and value adding and manufacturing opportunities*
- *Development of new export market opportunities to capture a greater share of growing international demand for oat products.*

*[Click here](#) for more information, or contact Peter Nash, GIWA Executive Officer
pnash@giwa.org.au*