



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SUNDROP FARMS EXPANSION SET TO GO**

Regional Development Australia Far North (RDAFN) is thrilled with today's announcement by Philipp Saumweber, Sundrop Farms CEO of the expansion of their glasshouse facilities near Port Augusta.

RDAFN have been working with Sundrop Farms since their arrival in Port Augusta and the development of their pilot greenhouse facilities. RDAFN Chair Dr Jen Cleary said, "We have always been very supportive of and interested in this project, and are excited at the announcement of their expansion".

RDAFN is also excited with the level of investment and national focus that this announcement will bring to Port Augusta. "This is fantastic for Sundrop Farms and Port Augusta, in that produce grown locally will be sold in supermarkets throughout Australia", said Dr Cleary.

The expansion will see the creation of 100 jobs at Port Augusta in the construction stage and approximately 200 farm jobs in peak periods once the facility is fully operational. Dr Cleary said the economic benefits this expansion will bring to Port Augusta and surrounding regions is significant. RDAFN will continue working with Sundrop Farms on their employment needs and how RDAFN can provide skills and training programs to ensure people in our region are in the best position to provide a significant proportion of Sundrop Farms workforce.

The expansion should be well received by the Port Augusta community, and fits well within Port Augusta Council's Community Vision and Strategic Plan. Port Augusta leads the way in promoting living sustainably in an arid environment, and the provision of infrastructure and resources that promote a healthy environment supporting businesses seeking to help Port Augusta extend its leadership as an Arid Smart Community.

RDAFN have always been impressed by Sundrop Farm commitment to Port Augusta through their utilisation of services from local businesses, and will encourage them where possible to continue doing so. "We commend Sundrop Farms on this announcement and their commitment to the sustainable future of the region, and we will continue our ongoing support of this project." Said Dr Cleary

The construction of the expansion facility begins this month and is scheduled to be completed in 2016.

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