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# FOOD SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOOD PARK CLUSTER SESSION - COMMUNIQUE

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## FOOD PARK CLUSTER SESSION - COMMUNIQUE

Hosted by Food South Australia (Food SA), the industry session on the Northern Adelaide Food Park was held on 29 November 2017 at the Plant Research Centre, Waite.

Industry members were provided with an update on the Food Park project being implemented at Edinburgh Parks.

- Professor Mehdi Doroudi (Deputy Chief Executive, Primary Industries and Regions SA) outlined the current interest received to date from industry and the opportunity for industry to access funding support to move to the Food Park through the \$7 million Food Park Business Attraction Fund.
- Mr Terry Burgess (Economic Development Board and Chair of the Food Park Steering Committee) reflected on the benefits of co-location drawing on his experiences at Tonsley. He outlined examples of the synergies that have developed at Tonsley as a direct result of co-location, and emphasized the importance of businesses having a genuine desire to work together.
- Mr Michael Buchan (General Manager, Renewal SA) outlined the efficient logistics networks of the site, the base infrastructure available and future opportunities to attract commercial providers to deliver viable energy, waste and high-speed internet solutions to tenants.

Following the update, Catherine Sayer facilitated an industry discussion to identify shared industry needs and opportunities that could be resolved collaboratively through the Food Park as part of a cluster. Potential opportunities identified by industry which could be explored included:

- The Food Park/ Northern Adelaide Story – primary produce is on the door step of the Food Park and the two sectors have the opportunity to work closer together.
- Engineering Services – the sharing of engineering services by businesses within the Food Park could provide real value to businesses, and is one area of collaborative opportunity.
- Trade delegations - the Food Park could offer easy access to a range of food businesses to showcase premium South Australian product to trade delegations. This should be encouraged and promoted through Government and industry channels.
- Equipment manufacturing – there is a market for ‘middle range’ manufacturing equipment, as much of the larger and smaller machinery is sourced from overseas. This would fill a gap especially to meet the needs of medium sized businesses.
- Transport and logistics – the Food Park could provide opportunities for freight consolidation, especially for smaller companies, and value chain management from paddock to plate.
- Innovation through collaboration – co-location creates opportunities for connection with others, both within and external to the industry, leading to innovative solutions to problems. Opportunities to maximize innovative opportunities need to be considered.
- Waste and innovation – there is a lot of technological advancements supporting waste conversion to energy. There is potential for the Food Park to harness energy generated through alternative means, subject to commercially viable solutions.

Businesses outlined some of the practical challenges faced when considering and assessing the economic advantages of undertaking a greenfield development. These included the

identification of costs associated with a new development (including utility connection) and the timeframes required for installation. Businesses noted the assistance available and actions underway by Renewal SA, PIRSA and City of Salisbury to address these challenges.

Businesses acknowledged that the South Australian food industry has a strong history of collaboration. Based on this experience, key success factors to collaborate included a genuine desire to work together, clear outcomes and objectives, trust between parties and aligned principles.

### Next Steps

Food SA will consolidate the ideas generated during this first session, and hold small group discussions with industry in early 2018 to identify common goals and priority areas for industry to grow and evolve the Food Park Cluster over time.

If you missed this first session, you are encourage to contact Food SA to find out how you can be involved in the cluster going forward.

For any enquiries please contact:

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