



Media Release

The Hon. Mal Brough MP Member For Fisher

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LOCAL RECEIVES FUNDING BOOST FOR INNOVATIVE PRODUCT

A local man has been offered assistance to lift his innovative idea from the drawing board into the global marketplace, under the Australian Government's Entrepreneurs' Programme.

Robert Irvine of Parrearra has developed a large concrete saw that will be the world's first to vacuum and store all its own waste as it cuts. Due to its unique design, this saw will also be the world's first to operate within Workplace Health and Safety lifting guidelines at all times and also the first 4 wheel drive saw on the market.

Federal Member for Fisher Mal Brough and Industry and Science Minister Ian Macfarlane said that Mr Irvine received funding under the programme's Accelerating Commercialisation element to help tackle the challenges of commercialising his innovative product.

"Congratulations to Robert who received an \$81,800 grant to progress commercialisation of his concrete saw for the national and international market," Mr Brough said.

"This is yet another example of an innovative product being born in our region and it is important that programmes like this exist to help to effectively commercialise Australia's wealth of intellectual property, including our brightest ideas from here on the Sunshine Coast," Mr Brough said.

Mr Irvine said that the grant would provide a significant boost to the development of the concrete saw.

"This product could not be produced without the professional mentoring and back up of the Accelerating Commercialisation Grant. Concrete saws are currently nearly all manufactured in the USA or Europe so our goal is to replace these imports and start an export industry for Australia," Mr Irvine said.

Minister Macfarlane said that the Sunshine Coast has a lot to be excited about when it comes to innovation.

"Last week I visited two businesses on the Sunshine Coast with Mal, and it again proved to me that this region and its significant small business community are successfully thinking outside of the square. That's why our Government programmes are so important to help innovative local businesses to back themselves to transform their great ideas into a reality," Mr Macfarlane said.

"The Entrepreneurs' Programme also provides innovative Australian businesses with access to expert advice, experience and networks crucial for attracting investment and getting new ideas into the marketplace.

“Australia needs great ideas to be transformed into commercial products in order to compete with global markets, and this investment will boost that effort across a range of sectors,” Mr Macfarlane said.

The Accelerating Commercialisation grants are matched by the recipients.

“Commercialisation Advisers guide businesses through the commercialisation process. Eligible entities may also receive financial assistance in the form of a matching grant of up to \$1 million,” Mr Macfarlane said.

More information on the projects that received grants is in the attached table. More information on the Entrepreneurs’ Programme can be found at www.business.gov.au/entrepreneurs-programme or by phoning 13 28 46.

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