



BUSINESS COUNCIL  
OF CO-OPERATIVES AND MUTUALS

## PRESS RELEASE

### South Australian Parliament recognise need for national co-op law

*Sydney, 21 May:* The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) welcomes the commencement of the Co-operatives National Law (South Australia) Act 2013 in the state tomorrow. This **follows similar action recently** by the Tasmanian and Northern Territory Parliaments and by the NSW and Victorian Parliaments last year.

Currently, legislation governing co-operatives varies between states and territories creating inconsistencies between jurisdictions and barriers to growth and free trade for co-operatives. The Co-operatives National Law seeks to harmonise laws regulating co-operatives nationally, leading to reduced regulatory costs and simplifying financial reporting and auditing requirements. The BCCM urges all states and territories to enact this legislation to help co-operative businesses thrive in state economies.

Commenting on the development, Melina Morrison, BCCM CEO, commended the South Australian Parliament for enacting the legislation in their jurisdiction.

“South Australia is a great co-operative state with some leading examples of co-operatives bringing economic prosperity and social development to the economy. The Barossa Co-op in Nuriootpa is an excellent example of how co-operatives can grow and benefit a local community with a recently announced \$30 million retail upgrade investment, generating employment for over 100 people during construction and over 200 jobs ongoing.”

“The Barossa Co-op is positive economic story for South Australia providing employment, economic prosperity and consumer choice for the local community and further afield”, added Ms Morrison.

On the Fleurieu Peninsula, the State Government has signed an agreement with workers at the old Aldinga Turkey processing factory, which will fund a feasibility study into the potential of a community co-operative in order to re-establish operations at the factory.

“The plan, if realised, will save jobs and the economic prosperity and social fabric of local communities on the peninsula and in surrounding areas”, said Ms Morrison.

Later this year, the Federal Senate will hold an inquiry to examine the role, importance, and overall performance of co-operative, mutual and member-owned firms in the national economy. The inquiry was co-proposed by independent Senator Nick Xenophon of South Australia.

#### Notes for editors

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2. You can also receive the BCCM's news and press releases by following us on Twitter @BCCM\_AU or signing up to our newsletters at [www.bccm.coop](http://www.bccm.coop)
3. The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) is the national peak body representing the co-operative and mutual models of enterprise in Australia. Formed in 2013, the BCCM is led by the chief executives of Australia's leading co-operative and mutual businesses and is the only organisation uniting the entire, diverse range of member owned business.