

NATIONALS

**ANDREW STONER MP
MEMBER FOR OXLEY**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Nestlé brings production to NSW and boosts jobs in \$18.5m investment

An \$18.5 million expansion of Nestlé's Smithtown factory on the NSW Mid North Coast will create around 30 full time jobs and turn the site into the company's production hub for its Nescafé Café Menu range in Australia.

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Trade and Investment, Andrew Stoner, welcomed Nestlé Australia's investment.

"This is a significant boost for the local economy, both the Macleay Valley and the Mid North Coast more generally," Mr Stoner said.

"The Smithtown operation has been going strong for around 90 years and, with today's announcement, I am confident Nestlé will be on the Mid North Coast for many years to come.

"Nestlé is one of the biggest employers here on the Mid North Coast.

"Products manufactured here in Smithtown end up on supermarket shelves around Australia and even overseas."

Mr Stoner said the NSW Government was committed to supporting business and industry across regional New South Wales.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has already introduced a Regional Relocation Grant of \$7,000 to encourage individuals and families to move from Sydney to regional NSW communities, is targeting 40,000 new jobs for regional NSW under the Jobs Action Plan, and has earmarked 30 per cent of Restart NSW, the capital fund to fix NSW, for regional NSW," Mr Stoner said.

Nestlé Australia said it was bringing production of Nescafé Café Menu permanently to its Smithtown factory – which also produces the iconic Milo drink - following an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in South Korea last year.

Nestlé Australia's Business Executive Manager (Beverages), Kais Marzouki, said the company's global head office in Switzerland decided to move production to Smithtown permanently following the factory's temporary manufacturing stint of Café Menu.

"To move the entire production to Smithtown was a huge logistical operation – we had a team from Nestlé Korea plus interpreters who came out to Australia to help us install the equipment and teach us how to operate the machinery and manufacture Café Menu," he said.

“Our local team did such a terrific job that the decision was made to invest heavily in the factory and manufacture it full time at Smithtown.”

The \$18.5 million will be used to purchase new production lines, machinery as well as packaging equipment. The boost in the factory’s production will require around an extra 30 full time positions, adding to the 131 people currently employed at the factory.

Up to 4,000 tonnes of Café Menu will be produced for the Australian and New Zealand markets at the factory annually.

“This investment demonstrates Nestlé’s commitment to, and confidence in manufacturing in regional Australia,” said Mr Marzouki.

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Smithtown factory at a glance

- Nestlé has been operating at the Smithtown factory since 1921.
- Milo was first produced at Smithtown following its invention by Sydney man, Thomas Mayne in 1934.
- Milo is now sold in Asia, South America and Africa.
- More than 500 million glasses of Milo are consumed in Australia every year.
- 23,000 tonnes of product is manufactured at Smithtown every year – that equates to around 100,000 cans a day.
- The factory produces Milo, Nesquik, Malted Milk Powder and now Nescafé Café Menu for Nestlé.