



The Hon. Christian Porter MP
Minister for Industry, Science and Technology

Senator Hollie Hughes
Liberal Patron Senator for the Hunter

Media Release

Monday, 28th June 2021

\$1,000,000 Government grant to help local manufacturer modernise

The Morrison Government is providing local company **M O Brewery** in the Newcastle electorate with a grant of \$1,000,000 to increase its competitiveness and productivity, while also helping to grow local jobs

The grant is being delivered under round two of the Government's Manufacturing Modernisation Fund (MMF), which is providing grants totaling \$55 million to 86 projects around Australia.

The grants are to help small and medium sized manufacturers invest in capital equipment and new technologies, while improving the skills of their workers.

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Christian Porter said the grants are a central element of the Government's \$1.5 billion Modern Manufacturing Strategy and will help drive growth in the Australian manufacturing sector.

"This new MMF funding round underlines the Government's commitment to increasing the competitiveness and productivity of Australian manufacturers," Minister Porter said.

"By encouraging businesses to enhance their operations through investment in cutting-edge technologies we're also supporting them to create new job opportunities, boost economic growth and build a highly skilled manufacturing workforce."

Senator Hughes congratulated **Modus Operandi Brewery** and said the grant would help the business create greater efficiencies by transforming and upgrading their manufacturing operations. M O Brewery has won the Small Independent Brewer Championship Awards for three out of the last five years and from the new Merewether site will be brewing NORT for Modus' new full flavoured non-alcoholic beer.

"This will help M O Brewery to modernise its business and potentially create new opportunities, including local job opportunities," Senator Hughes said.

“It reflects well upon the quality of businesses in the Newcastle electorate as well as providing an example of what others can also achieve.”

Businesses which receive MMF grants are required to match government funding on a three-to-one basis, with government grants funding up to 25 per cent of eligible project expenditure.

The minimum grant amount is \$100,000, and the maximum is \$1,000,000. Projects must be completed within two years.

MMF round two was a competitive merit based grants program, with applications assessed by a committee of independent industry experts.

The six National Manufacturing Priorities of the Strategy are: Resources Technology and Critical Minerals Processing, Food and Beverage, Medical Products, Recycling and Clean Energy, Defence and Space.

For a full list of successful recipients under the Manufacturing Modernisation Fund round two, visit www.business.gov.au/MMF

Hunter Region Strategic Advisor for Senator Hughes: Karen Howard 0413 123 258