



Unilever

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Unilever opens \$20million expansion at Tatura**

Just 13 months after announcing a multi million dollar expansion to the Unilever factory at Tatura, the new facilities were officially opened today by Unilever Australia Chairman, Peter Slator.

“This represents a significant milestone for Unilever in the Goulburn Valley and ensures our future as a major food manufacturer in the district for many years to come” said Peter Slator.

94 new jobs were created for the expanded Tatura plant, along with a AU\$20million investment in infrastructure and equipment.

In February last year, Unilever announced that their Tatura based foods factory would be expanded to accommodate the production from their Knoxfield factory, which was closing. Unilever Tatura was just one alternative to take over the Knoxfield production, with a Unilever foods factory in Thailand also hotly competing for the business. With the assistance of local and state government, Tatura was able to secure the Knoxfield production over the Thai option.

Within 6 months of the announcement last February, production of several well known Unilever brands such as Continental Cup-a-Soup had moved from Knoxfield to Tatura. By March 2008, all production had been successfully moved to Tatura and housed in the newly created 11,000 square metre facility.

“The move of our dry foods manufacturing to Tatura is a very visible vote of confidence in the Goulburn Valley, its labour force and its infrastructure” Mr Slator said. “The fact that we could be fully operational in just over 12 months is also a testament to the local contractors who worked tirelessly to bring the project in on time and on budget. However, the greatest praise needs to go to our own team here at Tatura and at Knoxfield, who planned and executed the move from

Knoxfield and the expansion at Tatura with energy, precision and great attention to detail.”

The opening was also attended by the Minister for Regional and Rural Development, the Hon. Jacinta Allen, M.P., Mayor Eric Bott, Justin Hanney, CEO of Regional Development Victoria and a number of senior Unilever management.

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**For Further details: Contact Nick Goddard- 0419 017 629**

Facts about Unilever:

- Unilever is one of the world’s largest food, personal and household product manufacturers, with head offices based in London and Rotterdam;
- In Australia, Unilever has food brands such as Streets Ice Cream, Continental soup and meal solutions, Bertolli pasta sauces and olive oil, Flora margarine and Lipton and Bushells tea. Personal care brands include Dove, Rexona, Sunsilk and Lux, while household brands are Omo, Surf, Jif and Domestos.
- Unilever has 3 manufacturing sites in Australia, with Tatura being the primary food site, producing Continental brand dry food products, Bertolli and Raguletto pasta sauces and Lipton iced tea.
- Tatura employs approximately 280 people. (including casuals)
- Over 5 years (2007-2012) the total investment in Tatura will be \$58 million, and new jobs created expected to be around 130.
- \$400mln will be spent on purchasing goods and services from Victorian suppliers over next 5 years.
- Over next 12 months, the new Tatura plant will produce over 45 million packets of Continental Cup-a-Soup, a similar number of packs of Continental Side Dish, 18 million packs of Continental Meal Bases, in addition to the tens of millions of Lipton Ice tea packs, glass jars of pasta sauce and tomato sauce already produced.

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