

My name is John Brunner, I am the Mill Manager of the Manildra Flour Mill

Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today

As you have heard earlier, the Manildra Group is an Australian owned and family owned company... The company started its history just over two hours west of here in the small country township of Manildra in 1952.

In 1952 the Manildra Flour Mill was one of 55 flour mills that were scattered across NSW. Many of them in country towns... Unfortunately now not many of these mills remain... As like many things, everyone thought the action was in Sydney.

The Manildra Group didn't just follow what everyone else was doing. Instead of closing the mill it continued its business in Manildra, invested and developed the site and we now have a world class Flour Mill in Manildra.

In fact it is the largest flour milling facility in Australia.

Over the years Manildra has continued to have significant investment in rural towns, namely our country flour mills in;

- Manildra,
- Narrandera,
- Gunnedah and
- Our starch and gluten plant at Nowra in the Shoalhaven area.

In the town of Manildra this week we will employ 235 people at our Manildra Flour mill and 70 people at our MSM Canola Oil plant. Across the Manildra Group, including our joint ventures we employ over 1350 people, with the most of these staff in regional NSW.

Our Manildra sites also create employment for others throughout NSW;

- We deal with over 5000 farmers who supply wheat and canola to our Mills. Most of the grain we buy is purchased direct from the grower.
- We produce stockfeed which is used by farmers in feeding cattle, sheep, goats, chickens and into pet food.
- We have relationships with transport businesses that both deliver raw material to us and transport our products to all parts of Australia. Most of these are regionally based transport companies.
- We drive employment for local maintenance tradesmen, engineers, electricians and many other local businesses.
- Wherever possible we buy locally to support those who support us.

A great example of the value of investment to a community has been in our Bag Making facility at Manildra.

Four years ago we decided to start printing and producing our own paper bags for packaging our flour. Once this decision was taken we;

- Engaged local engineers from Orange to design the factory
- Used a construction company from Bathurst to build factory
- Installed the equipment using local tradesmen
- and then employed 13 staff to operate the factory.

I would have been easy to simply 'buy it from overseas' but instead we did it in rural Australia. We are a manufacturing company that is proud of employing Australians.

I have seen the benefit the Manildra Group can bring to a community... It provides employment, training, and a sense of 'can do' for our people.

At our Manildra site we are mainly a milling and packing operation, however we've trained;

- truck drivers,
- train drivers,
- rail shunters,
- forklift drivers,
- laboratory staff,
- maintenance staff (mechanical and electrical),
- administration staff,
- supervisors and managers,
- and of course our millers and packing operators.

Some of these trained people move on and we wish them well, however many of them stay with us and enjoy stable fulfilling employment at Manildra.

Our site at Manildra is valued by our community. The rural towns of NSW need employment.

By approving this proposal.. Manildra Group could become the hub of your local community of Cullen Bullen and Portland – creating jobs and economic development ... as we have in many rural towns in NSW.