

T&R, Holco join forces

KeyPoints

- More buying power, better distribution
- Greater benefits over long term
- Enhanced job opportunities for employees

THE largest family-owned, Australian meat processing and packing company has been created in South Australia with T&R Pastoral buying a 50 per cent share in Holco Meat, formalising a long-standing association between the two companies dating back more than 30 years.

A joint statement said the new corporate structure would take effect later this month.

T&R Pastoral chief executive officer Darren Thomas said the investment in Holco would provide great benefits over the long term.

“Both companies have maintained a close relationship dating back to their respective origins,” he said.

“We are proud, locally-owned companies that place utmost importance on quality and running our businesses based on strong family values.



JOINT BENEFITS: T&R Pastoral chief executive officer Darren Thomas (pictured, right, with Holco CEO Mike Rankin) says investment is not only aimed at facilitating Holco's exciting growth prospects, "but also enhancing T&R's offering across the meat industry".

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Under the agreement, Holco's head office will remain in South Australia while the two companies will continue to operate independently.

Holco will also assume respon-

sibility for the management and operation of T&R's Country Fresh Nationwide business, at Coff's Harbour, New South Wales, adding to its existing operations in Adelaide, Brisbane and Darwin.

Mike Rankin will remain as Holco's managing director with Mr Thomas joining a new executive board to help guide Holco's growth and future strategy.

Mr Rankin said the partnership strengthened the companies' "farmgate to plate" offering for end-consumers across the globe.

“Our two companies have already established a great working partnership with Holco purchasing and processing T&R Pastoral product over many years,” he said.

“Formalising this partnership provides Holco with increased buying power. It enhances our ability to access the highest quality Australian lamb and beef for

the benefit of our customers.

“Our employees also now have even greater career opportunities by being part of a larger group.”

The privately held T&R Pastoral, based at Murray Bridge, is the largest lamb and mutton exporter in Australia and supplies Australian mutton, lamb, beef and co-products across Australia and into more than 80 export markets. It employs 2500 people and has a turnover of more than \$1.3 billion a year.

Holco, which is headquartered in Adelaide, processes and delivers fresh beef, chicken, lamb and pork products to restaurants, cafes, supermarkets, commercial caterers, mining sites and health-care organisations across Australia. It employs 300 staff and has a turnover of more than \$130 million.

– Additional reporting
BRAD COOPER and MALCOLM SUTTON

Rationalisation way of the world

SAFF livestock committee chairman Richard Halliday says the merger of T&R and Holco is unlikely to have much of an impact on South Australian operations.

He says livestock is like every business at the moment – companies are rationalising and the “big are getting bigger”.

“At the end of the chain, however,

being a farmer, you take one buyer out of the market and you'll have a flow-on effect somewhere,” he said.

“But it's not going to have much of an impact on what's going on here and T&R has always been very positive for SA.

“A lot of livestock goes through their works and you see them at most off-shears sales.”