

Greenhouse venture expands ahead of schedule

WORK on a new greenhouse at Guyra's Top of the Range is due to start ahead of schedule.

The good news was reported from Guyra's tomato glasshouse venture at the New England Credit Union's inaugural business breakfast.

Guests heard from guest speaker Levi Nupponen, Top of the Range Tomatoes grower manager, that work on a new greenhouse was to start ahead of schedule.

He said the current 50,400 square metre glasshouse was producing three million kilograms of tomatoes to date, well above initial targets.

Construction of a second glasshouse, the same size, would begin in June and be completed by the end of the year increasing the workforce to 100 and doubling production.

Mr Nupponen said the long term proposal to build two more glasshouses on the site within five years was still on track.

NECU CEO Kevin Dupé praised Guyra Council for attracting such a world class business to the town.

"A lot of the credit has to go to council and its pro-active attitude," he said.

"It pulled out all stops to encourage this business to establish in Guyra and in return is reaping the benefit of the jobs and a pool of professional expertise to enrich the community.

"From what we have heard about the perfect climatic conditions Guyra could, in theory, become known as 'Glasshouse City'."

He said the NECU business breakfasts would be held quarterly in Guyra with a range of guest speakers.

Mayor Robyn Jackson welcomed the business breakfast initiative for the town and commended NECU for upgrading its Guyra branch and providing the first ATM in the town street.