



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **the Premier and Cabinet**

Minister for Agriculture and Food

14/10/09

Media Statement

SUPPORT FOR SMALL FOOD AWARDS

The best rural food producers will be recognised with a new award after Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman today launched the inaugural Western Australian Small Food Awards.

Mr Redman commended Slow Food Perth on hosting the awards, which will encourage and recognise excellence in different aspects of the WA food sector.

“Slow Food Perth is doing some excellent work to strengthen people’s connection with the food they eat by developing a greater understanding of where the food comes from and how it is produced,” the Minister said.

“These awards will recognise the best rural producers and enterprises using Slow Food’s good, clean and fair principles.

“It will celebrate our State’s growing food culture and the role of small producers, retailers, chefs, winemakers, scientists and communities in providing a smorgasbord of local fresh, quality food and beverages.”

Mr Redman said consumers the world over were looking for safe, quality food produced by reliable West Australian farmers – big and small.

“The State Government recognises these market demands and has been working with various sectors of the food chain, including Slow Food Perth, to ensure we can meet the requirements of our markets,” he said.

Mr Redman said the Government’s commitment to the State’s food sector was demonstrated through its new *Plan to Support the Development of the WA Food Industry*, due to be finalised this year.

“We are also committed to supporting the local food culture through the *buy west, eat best* program used by some 80 WA businesses to encourage consumers to identify and buy local produce,” he said.

Mr Redman encouraged the food industry and the community to participate in the Small Food Awards. Nominations will be called in January next year.

For more information about the Small Food Awards contact Slow Food Perth on info@slowfoodperth.or.au or phone (08) 9381 4519.

Media contact: Carissa Buckland 08 9213 6700 0418 255 981

You can subscribe to have media releases emailed automatically from the Government’s website: <http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au>