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Exports Underpin Domestic Production

Incitec Pivot is evaluating export opportunities as a means of maintaining year-round manufacture of single superphosphate (SSP) at its Victorian plants in Portland and Geelong.

"We have no plans to export SSP if there is unsatisfied demand by Australian farmers," said James Whiteside, the company's General Manager – Supply Chain & Trading.

"However, if all domestic requirements are met there may be an opportunity to export more than 50,000 tonnes to South America later in the year.

"This would have the effect of keeping our plants operating, maintaining employment in the off-season, addressing the global food shortage and helping Australia's balance of trade."

Mr Whiteside said it was impossible to stockpile this amount of fertiliser because there were not adequate storage facilities available and lengthy storage also had the potential to impact on product quality.

Incitec Pivot's capacity to switch to export production in the off-season was critical to maintaining sustainable fertiliser manufacturing in Australia for the benefit of farmers and rural communities.

"Having a healthy domestic fertiliser manufacturing sector is in Australia's interests," he said. "Turning plants down while the world is so short of fertiliser would be irresponsible."

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