

Media Release

The Hon Steve Herbert MLC
Minister for Training & Skills



Friday, 18 September, 2015

SENIOR LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCHERS VISIT GOULBURN VALLEY

A delegation of 25 senior Latin American government administrators and academics have today witnessed the innovative research approaches to tackle climate change in Victoria's Goulburn Valley.

The inbound education mission, representing 18 Latin American government research agencies and universities from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, is visiting Victoria for three weeks as part of a joint Victorian and Australian Government Fellowship program.

The fellows are meeting with academics at Victoria's nine universities and government and industry leaders to develop research links and to share knowledge on research policy and management.

The visit to the Goulburn Valley formed part of the "A Sense of Place" study tour where the fellows, and delegates from seven regional councils, attended the launch of the Goulburn Broken Climate Smart Agricultural Development project.

The delegates also had the opportunity to visit Coomboona Dairies, a leader in the global dairy industry.

Minister for Training and Skills Steve Herbert said the inbound mission is an important step to build momentum and secure further opportunities for Victorian institutions.

It builds on the highly successful outbound mission to Latin America in April this year, led by Mr Herbert.

The Australia Awards Fellowship program combines collaborative skills and resources of universities, industry and government to forge research links with Latin American partners.

International education is Victoria's largest export sector generating \$5.3 billion and supports more than 30,000 jobs.

The Andrews Labor Government has identified international education as one of Victoria's future industries, and we're working with the sector to boost its potential and to create new jobs.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Training and Skills Steve Herbert

"I am pleased that Latin American delegates who visited the Goulburn Valley witnessed our research strengths in action."

"Victoria is committed to strengthening relationships with Latin American countries because we share fundamental concerns and potential solutions."

"International education is one of six future industries, identified by the Government, as a key driver for future jobs in Victoria. Ensuring market diversification for the international education sector is a key part of this plan."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Lisa Neville

"Victoria leads much of the world in terms of research to combat the effects of climate change."

"It's fantastic to see such a high level delegation of researchers learning how Victoria is trying to tackle climate change."

"We know climate change will impact significantly on water supplies. That's why we have invested significantly in infrastructure to improve water security for our communities."

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