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MEDIA RELEASE

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AWARDS TO RECOGNISE VICTORIA'S TOP EXPORT BUSINESSES

Member for Northern Victoria Region Wendy Lovell is encouraging the region's top export businesses to apply for the 2009 Governor of Victoria Export Awards.

"To ensure Victoria's economic prosperity into the future we need to be successful in the international marketplace and these awards recognise those companies, businesses and individuals that are making their mark in the export arena," Ms Lovell said.

"Northern Victoria has a wealth of businesses that produce for export markets including; fruit growers, crop and dairy farmers, wineries, food processors and large manufacturers.

"These businesses make an enormous contribution to our economy and also the communities in which they operate. They employ local people and are often the pillars of their community.

"There are a number of award categories relevant to northern Victoria including; the Regional Exporter Award, Small Business Award, Agribusiness Award, Emerging Exporter Award, and Large Advanced Manufacturer Award."

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Governor of Victoria Export Awards.

For a full list of award categories and eligibility criteria visit www.export.vic.gov.au/awards. Companies are able to apply online at this website. Guidelines are also available from Wendy Lovell's office at 138 Welsford Street, Shepparton.

Applications close Friday 17 July 2009.