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**Title:**  
Press statement - A.P.D. Plant, Mount Gambier

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PRESS STATEMENT: 18-2-71

FROM: PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN

SUBJECT: A.P.D. PLANT, MOUNT GAMBIER

The South-East of South Australia had the potential to become the market garden of Australia, the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) said today.

He was speaking at the opening of Associated Products and Distribution Pty. Ltd.'s \$2 million frozen vegetable processing plant at Mount Gambier.

Mr. Dunstan said a report prepared by members of the Department of Agriculture's horticultural branch indicated the South-East was capable of growing large acreages of peas and potatoes.

Other crops that could do well in the district were beans, sweetcorn, and winter crops such as cauliflowers, brussel sprouts and broccoli.

"The Mount Gambier - Millicent region is already developing as a major pea growing centre.

"About 6,000 acres have been planted with peas this season and I have been advised that this figure could rise to 45,000 acres annually on a five year rotation basis.

"The South East's advantages for vegetable growing are numerous.

"Its soil is good, irrigation potential is high, a long growing season is available and land prices are low."

Mr. Dunstan said it was advantages such as these that had led to Associated Products and Distribution Pty. Ltd. establishing a frozen vegetable processing plant at Mount Gambier.

"A.P.D. first investigated the Mount Gambier district in 1967, when it undertook trial plantings.

These investigations encouraged the company to lease 200 acres to grow experimental crops during the 1968-69 season, and the success of these crops induced it to carry out trials under commercial conditions.

Those proved extremely satisfactory and resulted in the building of this highly sophisticated processing plant.

I know that people throughout the lower South-East will join with me in wishing A.P.D. every success, and I have much pleasure in declaring the plant open.