



### **Hancock Prospecting invests in Bunbury Farmers Market**

Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd (HPPL) is pleased to announce a majority investment in Bunbury Farmers Market (BFM) and a partnership with the current owners Kevin Opferkuch and Graham Heath.

Established in 2003, BFM is an iconic West Australian business that is an important part of the South West community, providing fresh food and produce to locals and travellers alike, as well as being a major employer and community participant in the region.

This investment will enable an acceleration in BFM's growth plans, including the development of the recently announced Vasse Village Bunbury Farmers Market set to open in late 2024. Additional future sites, including Perth locations, will also allow new customers to enjoy the unique BFM experience. This investment will provide further opportunities for BFM's employees, farmers, and consumers to benefit from planned future growth.

Kevin and Graham will continue to oversee BFM, ably supported by the BFM management team.

Under the leadership of Executive Chairman Mrs Gina Rinehart AO, HPPL has become the most successful private company in Australia and one of the most successful private mining companies in the world.

This investment aligns with HPPL's premium agribusiness operations, including the award winning 2GR Wagyu Beef, the S. Kidman & Co grain fed and boxed beef and more recently, delicious Kidman pies, and the multi award winning Bannister Downs Dairy. HPPL has a long history in agriculture, being one of the longest continual owners of cattle stations in Australia, and is now an industry leader in innovation and development, focussed on animal welfare, employee wellbeing and premium Australian produce.

HPPL Executive Chairman, Mrs Gina Rinehart, said: "Like most West Australians who travel to the South West, many of us at HPPL are happy to be customers of Bunbury Farmers Market. We are pleased to make this investment to support the growth and expansion of this iconic and successful WA business, and to extend the benefits of further fresh produce to consumers and farmers alike."

Kevin Opferkuch and Graham Heath said: "After 20 years of owning and running the Bunbury Farmers Markets we are excited to welcome Mrs Rinehart and Hancock Prospecting as our partner. Hancock is a pioneering WA business, and with their long history in agriculture and commitment to quality produce, they share our vision for our WA company."