

MEDIA RELEASE-

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Oz Group Co-op Explores Export

Oz Group Co-op is exploring the potential of its 100% Australian farmer owned co-operative to export its premium quality berries to Asia. The local co-operative has so far supplied only to Australian supermarkets and is keen to expand into other markets. CEO, Brett Kelly is heading to Asia with marketing partner Driscoll's to investigate this avenue: "Just imagine, berries from our local region being exported directly from Coffs Harbour to other parts of the world."

Oz Group Co-op currently employs over 35 permanent staff, including an agronomy and compliance team. The co-op also expands to over 250 employees during the blueberry season at their Coffs Harbour state-of-the-art packing facility. Brett Kelly believes exploring other avenues, such as export can only add to the sustainability and prosperity of the local co-operative. "We want to see the co-op continue into the future, it means local jobs, tourism and a boost to the local economy. Australia was built on farming and being able to export our blueberries, raspberries and blackberries can help us become a world leader in horticulture."

Sustainability is key for the success of the co-op and there is hope that the forging of relationships with markets outside Australia will help the local industry develop into a world leader.



CEO Brett Kelly and Chief Agronomist Gaius Leong inspecting blueberries at Oz Group Co-op's Coffs Harbour packhouse.