PHILMAC HAS MORE JOBS AND WORK IN PIPELINE

CAMERON ENGLAND

UPBEAT: Philmac chief financial officer Anthony Hunter and, inset, former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull at the factory in 2015.

SOUTH Australian pipe fittings manufacturer Philmac will expand its production by four million units a year following a $1.65 million investment in its North Plympton plant.

Philmac will contribute $1.25 million with a further $400,000 coming from the State Government's Future Jobs Fund.

Once it is completed, the investment will create 18 new full-time jobs, adding to Philmac's workforce of more than

200.

The new jobs will include toolmakers, manufacturing engineers and production operators.

Philmac chief financial officer Anthony Hunter said the extra production capacity would help the company fulfil export demand.

"This expansion project will accommodate growth of new product ranges and create a manufacturing centre of excellence," he said.

"Since our establishment 90 years ago in 1929, Philmac has invested significantly in local manufacturing innovation.

"The announcement continues that tradition as we increase our capability as well as expand and upskill our local workforce.

"Philmac operates in a highly competitive global market. This expansion, which involves relocating plastic manufacturing currently undertaken in New Zealand to South Australia, will enable us to continue to meet our ambitious export growth plans.

"As the only Australianbased supplier in our sector, we're proud to be championing advanced manufacturing excellence both locally and overseas.'' Philmac is a manufacturer and supplier of polyethylene pipe-system fittings and valves for national and international markets.

Almost half of its product is exported to 30 overseas markets across Europe, the UK, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas.

Its products can be found in mines, on farms and rural properties, vineyards, golf courses, domestic and industrial building developments and the reticulated water supplies of towns and cities.