

# Company rises from the ashes with \$300m abattoir

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**The 2018 Thomas Foods fires.**

THOMAS Foods International will start building its new abattoir near Murray Bridge next month, after appointing a builder to oversee the \$300m project.

South Australian construction company Badge has been engaged to begin the first stage of the project that will include beef-processing and animal handling facilities, a boning room, stockyards, administration facilities and chilled-storage areas.

About 500 jobs will be created as part of the first stage.

The new state-of-the-art facility will replace the company's original plant, which was destroyed by a massive fire in January 2018.

Thomas Foods chief executive Darren Thomas said it



**An artist's impression of Thomas Foods new \$300m abattoir near Murray Bridge.**

would set a new benchmark for technology, efficiency, environmental sustainability, animal welfare and workplace safety.

"We look forward to now working alongside Badge, a

fellow South Australian family-owned company, in creating what will become a global showcase of advanced food manufacturing," he said yesterday.

"The fire, as devastating and disruptive as it was, has given us a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create something truly special."

The new meatworks facility will be built at a greenfield site at Pallamana, 10km north of Murray Bridge.

Construction of the first stage is expected to be completed over the next two years, and will have an initial capacity of up to 600 head of beef a day.

Subsequent stages will include sheep and lamb processing facilities, and a further expansion of the beef facilities, taking the total capacity to 1200 head of beef and 15,000 head of sheep and lamb a day.

Following completion of future stages, the project is expected to support more than 2000 jobs.

Badge managing director Jim Whiting said the "landmark" project would create significant economic benefits to the region and the state.

"We will be working with many other great South Australian businesses, including Ahrens, who will be supplying all the specialised structural steel for the project, and we see many other opportunities for local subcontractors as construction gets under way," he said.