



## **Heidi Victoria MP**

Member for Bayswater District  
Minister for the Arts  
Minister for Consumer Affairs  
Minister for Women's Affairs



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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Bayswater company awarded R&D Voucher to innovate, develop and grow**

Bayswater District MP Heidi Victoria has congratulated Confoil Pty Ltd on being the recipient of a \$25,000 Business Research and Development voucher to assist in developing innovative packaging that increases the shelf life of food.

Ms Victoria said the funding, part of the Victorian government's Innovation Voucher Program, would enable the Bayswater business to replace conventional food packaging and therefore reduce waste, spoilage and the growth of microorganisms.

"Confoil has developed an innovative concept for a paper-based biodegradable material that combines food-approved preservatives and other ingredients to increase the shelf-life of foods by inhibiting, retarding or suspending food spoilage naturally without using induced gases," Ms Victoria said.

"Successfully developed and commercialised, this innovative concept could substantially reduce supply chain costs as well as the use of plastics in the food sectors."

Confoil manufactures and supplies aluminium foil and paper-based trays and wraps to the food manufacturing sector as well as the defence forces, hospitals and healthcare facilities and supermarkets.

Ms Victoria said the longer shelf-life could also benefit horticultural growers, food manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers and could significantly reduce food wastage.



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“The Business R&D Voucher will enable Confoil to work with CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering experts to create different mixes of the preservatives and incorporate them into paper products to form containers suitable for further CSIRO testing and refinement,” Ms Victoria said.

Confoil is among the latest group of Victorian companies to receive a Business R&D Voucher worth up to \$25,000 under the Victorian Government’s \$5.5 million *Innovation Voucher Program*.

Minister for Innovation, Louise Asher, said the Innovation Voucher Program was designed to encourage business-to-business and business-to-research collaborations to take advantage of Victoria’s world-class research and development capabilities to explore new ways to improve their productivity and competitiveness.

“The vouchers fund access to specialised R&D solutions to push development projects toward real commercial outcomes,” she said.

“The Innovation Voucher Program has now provided Business R&D Vouchers to more than 150 Victorian companies over two years to help them innovate and take forward their most important projects for the future.

“Recipients of these latest vouchers are working on exciting new products, processes and services with R&D suppliers that will generate ongoing benefits for the companies and contribute to Victorian prosperity.”

Applications for the Innovation Voucher Program are open continuously, enabling businesses to address innovation challenges or opportunities as they arise.

For further information, visit [www.business.vic.gov.au/ivp](http://www.business.vic.gov.au/ivp).

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