



## **MEDIA RELEASE – 19 July 2019**

### ***Award-winning coconut yoghurt producer to establish at the Big Pineapple as part of revitalisation plans for the iconic site***

COYO, an award-winning Sunshine Coast-based organic coconut yoghurt producer, is set to expand production and set up their national headquarters at the Big Pineapple.

Big Pineapple Renewal Project Director, Jim Costello, said the relocation and expansion of COYO's production at the Big Pineapple was another exciting chapter in the renewal of the Sunshine Coast's most famous icon.

"COYO will be based in the refurbished, former Macadamia Nut Factory, which will please many locals, who have long wanted to see these buildings given a new lease of life," Mr Costello said. "They have signed a 10 year lease agreement over a 1700m<sup>2</sup> site, which will greatly assist COYO with their expansion plans."

Andrew Eves-Brown, COYO CEO, confirmed his company will base operations at the Big Pineapple, following Council approval, as part of COYO's growth strategy.

"We are proudly a Sunshine Coast company, and while we could have relocated elsewhere on the eastern seaboard, we really wanted to part of the Coast's world-class food scene," Mr Eves-Brown said.

"Our product is already licensed internationally and we export into Asia, as well as servicing many major national food and supermarket outlets. With an expanded production and distribution base at the Big Pineapple, we are ready to further advance our product globally."

The Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN), whose head office is located at the Big Pineapple, welcomed the joint announcement of the expansion of COYO's production base at the Big Pineapple site.

Emma Greenhatch, FAN's General Manager said, "COYO is a Sunshine Coast success story with their yoghurt and ice cream on the shelves of supermarkets nationwide. The company is also rapidly expanding into international markets and will receive support through a new FAN export service. Re-locating their production facility to the Big Pineapple will be a major step forward to position COYO for future growth."

"FAN is also excited about the potential for the Big Pineapple to become home to a food manufacturing hub, where co-located manufacturers can benefit from shared infrastructure and services and being a part of a world-class food tourism precinct."



The **Big  
Pineapple**  
Renewal

“There is such a strong collaborative culture in this region and a physical hub will enable more food businesses in the region to scale for growth, together.”

The announcement of COYO’s new tenancy follows recent confirmation of the Treetop Challenge adventure course at the Big Pineapple, which will shortly be under construction. The Big Pineapple Music Festival was also named Queensland’s best music festival earlier in 2018.

“We also see the site as a hub and destination for micro-breweries and distilleries, with the site becoming a major production centre, with added food tourism and education opportunities.”

“In the months ahead, visitors will be able to drop into the Wildlife zoo after they progress through the many experiences of the TreeTop Challenge, and then take in a concert in the evening, after a selfie with the Big Pineapple.”

“The return of the Big Pineapple is a major undertaking, and we will keep chipping away, adding new attractions and employment generating tenancies, just like COYO, to deliver our master plan vision over the months and years ahead.”

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**Another step in the renewal of the Big Pineapple:**

Food production and food based tourism is a big part of the Big Pineapple master plan.

The Big Pineapple master plan includes a food manufacturing hub and food tourism offer, events space, educational facilities, eco-tourism, eco-accommodation, RV and theme park, to enhance the iconic site’s natural assets and tourism experience.

The whole of site master plan has been lodged with the Sunshine Coast Council and the community will shortly have an opportunity to comment on the vision to restore the Big Pineapple as a destination and employment hub.

Follow our progress at: [www.bigpineapplerenewal.com](http://www.bigpineapplerenewal.com)

Further information about COYO: [www.coyo.com](http://www.coyo.com)

Further information about FAN: <https://foodagribusiness.org.au>

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