

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade
The Honourable Stephen Robertson
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Queensland 'super' honey sweet for global medical application

A Queensland company has commenced exporting high-grade honey to the huge European market, but you won't find this 'super' honey topping English muffins or French toast.

Trade Minister Stephen Robertson today congratulated Berringa Honey on developing a highly valuable niche export market for its world standard medical grade honey, and pledged continued assistance from the Bligh Government's export agency, Trade Queensland, to enter new overseas markets including the USA.

Medical honey is used in numerous applications, including cosmetics as well as in specialist wound and burn treatments for both humans and animals.

"The majority of Berringa Honey's top-grade medical honey product is sourced from Queensland bee keepers and it is Australian Certified Organic with all of the bottling, filling and labelling done in Queensland," Mr Robertson said.

"Berringa is now seeking to engage a specialised testing laboratory and to expand research and development within the State.

"Berringa's medical honey is one of the highest grades in the world, produced from the complex plant group, *Leptospermum Polygalifolium*, which are native only to Australia.

"Trade Queensland is assisting Berringa Honey to develop markets for its world-class medical grade honey in Europe and has held preliminary meetings with Berringa about expanding operations into the USA.

"The development and use of these kinds of bio-product will be high on the agenda during my current trade mission to the USA for BIO 2009.

"Berringa Honey held a product launch this week at Queensland House in London. This launch was attended by Dr Amanda Tonks, a leading microbiologist and specialist on honey research from the Department of Microbiology, University of Cardiff, Wales."

The company has already secured a UK distributor (Science Pharma Ltd) and Trade Queensland will continue to work with Berringa to establish new markets for this valuable niche product.

"Through our support of Queensland businesses the Bligh Government's *Toward Q2* strategy is delivering on our goal to strengthen our economy by broadening it into new markets," Mr Robertson said.

"*Toward Q2* is creating a diverse economy powered by new ideas.

"I sincerely congratulate Berringa Honey on their ongoing work to establish this new and exciting export market for Queensland."

CEO of Berringa Honey, Mr Giles Tilley, said that most honeys have a weak antibacterial effect below 100- 250 methylglyoxal activity, while honey registering over +400 activity has the strength to reliably kill most harmful bacteria.

"Honey with levels above +700 is extremely rare and hard to source," Mr Tilley said.

"Berringa Honey has consistent levels of over +1,600 and is currently considered to be the world's most potent.

"Trade Queensland's officers in Brisbane and overseas have assisted us with exporting assistance and business introductions, and we are very grateful for their assistance in organising and attracting relevant industry contacts to our London product launch.

"The company is also attending the four day IFIA trade show in Tokyo, Japan from May 19 to 22 as part of a business mission led by Trade Queensland," Mr Tilley said.

Visit www.berringahoney.com for more information.

Media Contact : Minister's Office +61 7 3224 7332