

CASE STUDY

lowesTC Pty Ltd

Plant Tissue Culture



I make
sure we
invest for
future
generations

SIMON PETTINGER, Managing Director

GREG LOWE, Founder

LOWES TC. Scientific Agribusiness

Lowes TC is an agri-science business that propagates new plant varieties for distribution to customers across the world. With head office in Wyong Shire and facilities in India and Ireland, Lowes TC supplies over 3.5 million live plants every year internationally.

**TAKE YOUR BUSINESS
TO A NEW PLACE**

wyong
SHIRE

SNAPSHOT

Location: Tumbi Umbi

Employees: 75

Annual output: 3.5 million plants

20 years of operation

Started in Wyong Shire in 1995

Lowes TC is a tissue culture company performing cutting edge agri-science to bring new plant varieties across the world for landscaping, food production and home gardening.

"A breeder will create a new plant variety and give us that one plant for propagation," explains Managing Director Simon Pettinger. "We take tiny cuttings and scientifically design a medium to grow and multiply the plant in our sterile lab. Then we work out how to develop the root system so we can return it to the wider environment. It's literally cutting edge... we are doing real science here."

"Food production will increase by 50% by 2050, that's what we're positioning for"

With affordable land, good rainfall, lots of sunlight and close proximity to an international airport, Wyong Shire has helped Lowes TC blossom getting 3.5 million plants a year to customers.

"It's critical to our business that we get our plants undamaged to customers all around the world. We outsource to a number of transportation companies and we rely on good infrastructure, which Wyong Shire delivers," says Simon.

The R&D team at Lowes TC include a marine biologist, environmental scientist, a molecular biologist, and other general scientists. They're able to tap into talent from the local university and TAFE, as well as local recruiters. "We like to engage local people and show them, especially in an area that's as niche as ours, that there are jobs here that have an international reach in this industry."

Part of that international reach is dependent on reliable internet connection, so Lowes TC has been one of the first to connect to the NBN in Wyong. "It gave us an opportunity to communicate with businesses overseas in real time. We have weekly production meetings with our overseas teams, and live database updates, which is only possible due to the NBN," adds Simon.

"When my partner and I travelled around Australia, we were looking for a place to live, what we found is that we already come from one of the nicest places. If you stop and take a look around, you see the coast, lakes and rivers and realise we live in a pretty special place."

"The future of our business will be run out of Wyong Shire forever as far as I can see, there'd be no reason to leave. Why go to such expense when the commercial space is highly affordable, the people are highly skilled and very committed to your business and their work."



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MOVING YOUR BUSINESS TO WYONG SHIRE:

Call economic development on (02) 4350 5555 or email: business@wyong.nsw.gov.au