

BREW PARTNERS (BRISBANE) LAUNCHES CRAFT BEER INVESTMENT FUND

Ahead of their first facility opening in the New Year, contract brewer **Brew Partners** has launched an investment fund that aims to raise \$5m each year to help fund the growth of independent craft breweries.

The funds will be divided between selected breweries to help them grow and “provide the capital required to expand capacity and increase sales”.

The breweries will in turn provide Brew Partners with increased production volumes and stock for its taphouses and distribution partners.

Commenting on the launch, Shaun Lockwood, CEO of Brew Partners, said: “We’ve been vocal and very active in our support for independent breweries and now it’s time for us to put our money where our mouth is. The Brew Partners Investment Fund will not only contribute to the growth of independent breweries, but it will also ensure our customers are getting more of the beers they love”.

Brewers that wish to be considered for funding must be independently owned and plan to use the funds “to invest in upscaling, packaging and distribution.”

When asked how breweries were selected over others that have also submitted requests for funding, Shaun said that while “countless breweries can be considered,” “we also look at how much stock the brewery is likely to sell over the next 12 months and how unique the offering is, just to make sure we get the balance right”.

Brew Partners has been working on “many projects” including the investment fund with the ultimate goal “to help independent beer thrive” and to help breweries “meet the demand of beer lovers across Australia as well as further afield”.

While funding will first be given to Australian independent breweries – “as that’s where the majority of our partners are based,” Shaun says “We may look to open up the fund to independent partner breweries further afield. We have had considerable interest from breweries abroad wishing to expand their production by producing their products with Brew Partners here in Queensland and we feel the opportunity for both Brew Partners and these international breweries to benefit from the investment fund is definitely here.”