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MEDIA RELEASE

RICK STEIN AT BANNISTERS RESTAURANT BACKED BY REGIONAL FUNDING GRANT FOR PORT STEPHENS

In a major development for tourism in Port Stephens, *Rick Stein at Bannisters* is set to open in the region later this year thanks to a \$150,000 grant from the NSW Government's Regional Tourism Fund, paving the way for a world class restaurant to attract visitors from around Australia and around the world.

Destination Sydney Surrounds North (DSSN) worked closely with the State's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW, to help secure the funding which has enabled *Rick Stein at Bannisters* to build a spectacular waterfront facility at Soldiers Point, showcasing local produce with Rick Stein's twist on seafood.

The restaurant will also feature a Rick Stein wine produced in the Hunter, and a Bannisters Boutique Gin in partnership with Murray's Brewery, with later plans of introducing a beer.

This will be just the second Rick Stein restaurant in Australia and is expected to boost local accommodation providers, tourism operators, food and beverage suppliers and local retailers.

DSSN Board Member Naomi Farrelly said, "Food and Wine experiences are key drivers for tourism visitation. We are excited to be able to support this new hero product which will showcase Port Stephens' seafood and produce from across the Hunter region and create a new world-class dining experience for both domestic and international travellers."

The Regional Tourism Fund is managed and administered by the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW and provides investment into the regional visitor economy on a matched dollar-for-dollar basis.

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