

Drought-breaking invention

By MARCELLE CLARKE

A BOBIN invention which has the potential to break droughts and has already been exported to Malaysia is one of nine New South Wales regional companies selected for world wide promotion.

The NSW Minister for State Development, Michael Egan, announced the 36 companies at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney.

The selected companies, which have locally developed products which are ready for export, will be promoted world wide through the 'Australian Technology Showcase'.

These companies will ultimately be joined by hundreds more from around Australia in being promoted at international expos and other events as well as through a targeted campaign which will bring international business leaders to Australia in the run up to the Olympic Games.

The innovative Fodder Factory, operated by Peter Ryan, is a food processing plant that can produce up to one tonne of high protein livestock feed a day.

The invention has been described as a drought breaker, because of its ability to create feed independent of outside conditions, with a minimum amount of water.

"With 75 percent of the State in drought this system is the answer," Mr Ryan said.

"When the creeks dry up and the dams dry out, what can farmers do?"

"With the Fodder Factory they can use salty borewater to produce feed."

Mr Ryan has been operating the Fodder Factory company for the past nine years and is determined to stick with the idea he believes is a great one for rural Australia.

Each Fodder Factory is a fully contained shed that produces a tonne of feed each day. The beauty of the Fodder Factory is that the unit is completely installed by Mr Ryan.

When a prospective purchaser decides to buy the system, Mr Ryan tests the water source and sends the purchaser a drawing of the slab, which they install before he comes to install the shed, which takes about a week.

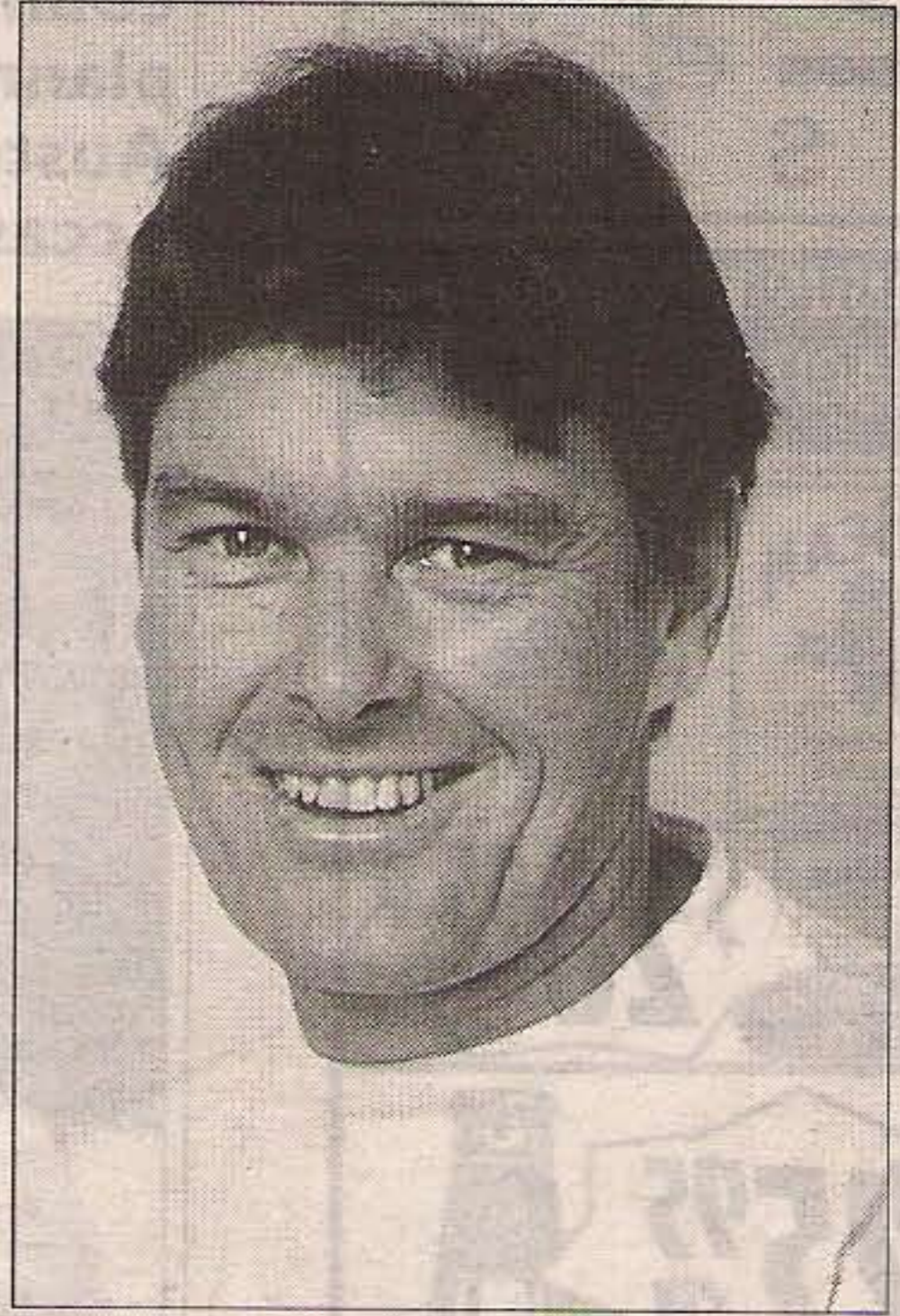
"It comes complete with tanks, pumps, trays and computer system. All the customer has to do is buy the gran. The computer system regulates the temperature inside and the water source.

"It takes the guess work out of farming."

The shed uses single phase power and is very economical.

"Studies have shown that this system is 88 times more water efficient than irrigating lucerne flats."

Mr Ryan's factories have been established in such diverse climatic locations as



■ Bobin's Peter Ryan operates the Fodder Factory.

Rockhampton, Dubbo, Hobart and Western Australia.

Mr Ryan is hoping the inclusion of the Fodder Factory in the Australian Technology Showcase, along with the cream of innovative techniques unique to Australia, will expose his product to places such as the Middle East, South Africa and Turkey.

There is already a Fodder Factory in Malaysia and Mr Ryan is in the process of signing an agreement to supply a factory to Turkey.

"There has also been strong interest from Armenia where there is interest in purchasing five of the one tonne units."

Factory can make a difference

THE inventor of the Fodder Factory, a potential drought breaker, has called on State and Federal Governments to support rural Australia during times of drought.

Peter Ryan, of the Fodder Factory company, says interest in the system has been slower in Australia than it has overseas.

"Basically I think farmers in Australia are pretty broke, they haven't really got the money to do anything with.

"It is a shame we have been unable to raise any drought assistance money for this

type of thing.

"Farmers need low interest loans from the government."

Mr Ryan said he recently set up a system for an outback NSW farmer.

"He fed 960 pregnant merino sheep with the Fodder Factory and now has 700 lambs on the ground. Just with one Fodder Factory and him carting water. When I asked him what would have happened if he hadn't purchased the system he said 'simple, they would all be dead now'."