

Hume to be halal hub

BY LEAH ODGERS

HUME City Council could be the site of Australia's first halal hub – a “one-stop shop” for manufacturing, packaging and distributing international halal products.

Aitken Ward councillor Adem Atmaca outlined the council's proposal for the halal hub at the inaugural Halal International Conference held in Melbourne last week.

The hub would provide training, cer-

tification, and joint marketing of fresh food, cosmetics and medicine that could be halal certified and distributed throughout the world.

Cr Atmaca said the concept was similar to the successful industrial centres in Malaysia, Holland and Dubai.

“The halal market is a big cake and everyone is trying to get their slice.

“The halal hub would offer opportunities for companies to move into the

hub and build their premises,” he said.

Cr Atmaca said Hume is suited to have the hub because of its infrastructure: the inland P&O port in Somerton where containers are distributed by train to ports, the airport and the arterial roads.

Hume councillors last week endorsed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Brunei Government.

The MOU signing is envisaged to

result in significant halal investment and employment benefits for Hume.

Hume City Council, Kangan Batman Tafe and the Plenty Food Group cluster, which represents over 100 local food businesses, signed MOUs with the Brunei Government while attending the launch of Brunei Halal brand.

Hume City mayor Gary Jungwirth said signing the MOU was a significant milestone with the Brunei Government.

“Hume offers airport infrastructure, an ideal location for the distribution centre, and training in food processing, aviation, business development, and freight and logistics,” he said.

Last week the Minister for Rural Development announced a \$30 000 State Government grant to produce an information package that would inform food companies on halal production, accreditation and market opportunities.