

# Premier and Col Johnson join forces

**Premier Fruits Group announced in May that the major Sydney Markets Company Col Johnson & Co had merged its operations with the Group.**

**P**remier Fruits Group Chief Executive Officer, Anthony Di Pietro, said negotiations between the two companies had been finalized successfully and would add major benefits to growers and customers.

Col Johnson & Co will continue to trade under its name in the Sydney Markets, of which it has been a major stakeholder for almost 40 years and, as a division of Premier Fruits Group, Joe Barbara will continue as Managing Director.

Mr. Di Pietro said, "The two companies complement each other in the Sydney marketplace and this will deliver significant benefits to all trade partners.

"Col Johnson has a strong standing and trading reputation in the Sydney

Marketplace and Premier complements this with its extensive national, farming, marketing and logistics network.

"We are now servicing our growers and retail customers across Australia from the East coast to the West with central market operations in all capital cities," he said.

Col Johnson will develop a purpose-built distribution centre to further capitalise on the synergies between the two companies.

Mr. Barbara said the strong relationship between the stakeholders and management of the two companies was a critical factor in ensuring the success of the operation well into the future.

## Company Backgrounds ...

**PREMIERS FRUITS GROUP**, which is based in Melbourne, is one of Australia's major farming and wholesale fresh fruits and vegetables trading companies. It has farming, warehousing, distribution and logistics operations throughout Australia, along with market selling floors in Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth central markets.

**COL JOHNSON & CO** is a major wholesaler of fresh fruits and vegetables at the Sydney Markets. It has traded since 1968 and built a reputation for being one of the top independent fruit and vegetable companies in Sydney.

"We believe we have the best operational and strategic practices to move forward and to be a major contributor to the success of Australia's fresh fruits and vegetables industry," he said.