



*Australian Dairy Industry Council Inc.*

## Media Release

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13 August 2010

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### **Dairy Industry welcomes the Coalitions rural water infrastructure commitment**

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#### **For immediate release**

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The Australian Dairy Industry Council (ADIC) welcomes the Coalitions commitment to provide an additional \$300 million investment into rural water infrastructure in the Murray Darling Basin (MDB).

“This commitment supports the dairy industry’s long held position seeking on-farm water infrastructure investment. This is the only way we will sustainably achieve water use efficiency,” said Mr Wes Judd, Chairman ADIC.

Mr Judd said, “The ADIC will work closely with all parties to ensure the detail surrounding water policy will achieve the outcomes our dairy industry needs.”

“The dairy industry strongly supports the Coalitions election promise to initiate an economic and social impacts study of the Draft Basin Plan through the Productivity Commission and ABARE. The outcomes of this study will ensure the importance of our dairy farmers, manufacturers and communities to the Basin region is recognised’, said Mr Judd.

“As a cohesive group representing dairy farmers and manufacturers, the ADIC is actively promoting the message that the dairy industry is ‘*Working for a Better Basin*’ and aiming to achieve the best possible outcomes for dairy farmers, industry and the community”, Mr Judd said.

#### **Note:**

The dairy industry is a major player in the many regions across the Basin, and the Lower Murray Darling Basin (LMBD) region has been identified as the largest dairying area with more than 2,600 dairy farms, representing 32 per cent of all dairy farmers in Australia.

These dairy farm businesses irrigate 84,920 hectares, equivalent to 15 per cent of irrigated land in the region and produced a total milk production of 2.1 billion litres, totalling \$800 million at farmgate production value. A total of 5,972 people are employed directly on dairy farms with a further 2,674 employed in manufacturing and processing.

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