

# Media Release



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Dairy Reviewing National Structure

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**For immediate release**

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Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) is today publicly announcing its intention to look at a restructure of the dairy industry's policy advocacy and representation moving into the future.

Currently, dairy farmers are not direct members of ADF, rather membership of ADF is held by dairy farmer organisations in each state.

The key reasons for a review of current structures relate to the following:

- The majority of the issues we face are of a national nature.
  - Emissions Trading
  - Environment (including water)
  - Animal Welfare
  - Trade and Market access
  - National consistency in food safety
  - Relationships with Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and similar bodies
- Stronger and more effective use of dairy farmer sourced funds.
- Understanding and building "grass-roots" membership and participation.
- Inconsistency in how dairy farmers are represented in each state.
- Ensuring a single strong voice representing dairy to governments and other authorities.
- Strengthening our relationship with the Australian Dairy Industry Council and Dairy Australia.
- Understanding that many milk processors operate in a number of states across Australia

It is our intention to deliver a structure that will provide enhanced national, state and regional dairy advocacy and representation, as well as strengthening current state agricultural bodies, which offer a broad range of additional benefits and services.

Preliminary discussions have already been held with state dairy and state farmer organisations.

Mr Noel Campbell has been appointed Chairman of the Restructure Committee. Noel will be assisted by Mr Rick Lacey who has been appointed to assist in putting together the proposal which we propose to submit to the industry and especially our dairy farmers nationally by mid 2010 for discussion. Rick is well qualified for this role as he has previously carried out significant work in the area of agricultural economics. Additional legal and other professional advice will also be sourced as required.

ADF looks forward to working with all interested dairy bodies over coming months to ensure that moving into the future dairy farmers are effectively represented and most importantly feel that they would want to be members and are able to actively participate.

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**For further information contact:**

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