

Media Release



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Australian Dairy Farmers welcomes Abbott Government's new Cabinet line-up

For immediate release

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Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) has welcomed the Abbott Government's new Cabinet line-up.

The new Ministry, to be sworn in today, includes the Deputy Leader of the National Party, Barnaby Joyce MP, as Agriculture Minister and the Honourable Andrew Robb AO MP as the Minister for Trade and Investment.

"The ADF welcomes the announcement of the Abbott Government's new Cabinet line-up, in particular the appointment of Barnaby Joyce and Andrew Robb to the Agriculture and Trade and Investment portfolios respectively," said Noel Campbell, President of Australian Dairy Farmers.

"Barnaby Joyce is well known for his advocacy of farmers and agricultural communities in general, and the ADF looks forward to working with him in his new role.

"There are opportunities as well as challenges facing the dairy industry, and we look forward to sitting down at the earliest available opportunity to discuss these with new Ministers.

"These include 'fast-tracking' Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with China, Japan and South Korea, balancing the excessive market power of the major supermarkets, and reducing the red tape burden on farmers.

Mr Campbell said the ADF also welcomed the Government's decision to split the Trade and Foreign Affairs portfolios.

"This has been an important issue for the ADF and its members, and it's pleasing to see the Abbott Government listen and act upon the feedback it has received," Mr Campbell said.

"Splitting Trade and Investment from Foreign Affairs will help 'fast-track' the development of FTAs with China, Japan and South Korean and the ADF welcomes this common sense step.

"With the demand for dairy products across Asia continuing to rise, the pursuit of FTAs with these countries is simply too important an opportunity to be missed.

"We look forward to working closely with Minister Robb in achieving real progress towards this outcome."

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