

Media Release



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WCB interest boosts confidence in the dairy industry: ADF

For immediate release

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Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) has welcomed the latest interest in Warrnambool Cheese and Butter (WCB), with the recent bid by Murray Goulburn (MG) bringing into play the value of farmer-owned co-operatives to the dairy industry.

ADF President, Noel Campbell, said the competition for WCB so far is a strong sign of confidence in our industry's future prospects and growth, at home and abroad.

"There is strength in unity through farmer ownership of processing capacity, and the co-operative model offers farmers improved returns from the whole supply chain," Mr Campbell said.

"Farmer co-operatives play an important part in the industry in key dairy regions around the world, with four of the top eight dairy companies globally co-operatives."

The recent Horizons 2020 report into the future of the dairy industry also provides evidence of the benefits of farmer-owned co-operatives.

The report states that "sustained growth in dairy industry output of any major exporting country has - in the past - not been achieved without the significant presence of farmer-owned co-operatives as the engine for expansion."

Mr Campbell said the dairy industry needs a range of company structures to help ensure a vibrant and prosperous future.

"Diversity in this respect will help ensure the industry delivers stronger returns and is well placed to capitalise on future growth opportunities," he said.

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