

Media Release



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ADF National Dairy Farmers' Summit a positive step forward for Australian dairy

For immediate release

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The inaugural Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) National Dairy Farmers' Summit has been declared a "positive step forward" for the Australian dairy industry.

Held in Melbourne yesterday, the Summit brought together over 150 industry representatives, an overwhelming majority being dairy farmers from across Australia.

ADF President, Noel Campbell, said a range of processors and state dairy farming and national farming organisations representatives had also attended the Summit, which was supported by Dairy Australia (DA), the Australian Dairy Industry Council (ADIC) and Coles.

"The Summit brought the whole of our industry together, led by dairy farmers for the benefit of dairy farmers," Mr Campbell said.

Mr Campbell thanked the Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP, Federal Minister for Agriculture for opening the Summit.

"The Minister's comment that 'the world is run by those who turn up' was particularly welcome, given the Summit's focus on dairy farmers taking collective control in shaping the industry's future vision and direction," he said.

Summit delegates identified eighteen key priorities for the dairy industry across six themes, with delegates ultimately voting to rank these in order of priority. Farmer profitability was the recurring theme underpinning all priorities.

The top three priorities as decided by the delegates were:

- 1. Develop an industry strategy for innovation, investment and growth;**
- 2. Identify pathways to success to encourage investment and confidence in the industry; and**
- 3. Government to continue with trade reform that benefits dairy.**

Mr Campbell said aside from deciding the industry's top priorities one of the biggest benefits of the Summit was in stimulating thoughtful debate and discussion between farmers.

"It was really heartening to see dairy farmers from across Australia engaging in genuine discussion and debate on the issues that matter to the industry," he said.

"Whether it was catching up over pasture management or discussing the merits of international trade, these discussions added enormous value to the Summit's deliberations."

Mr Campbell said it was a difficult but ultimately rewarding task, to rank the industry priorities that emerged from the Summit's workshops session.

"This reflects the rigorous and high-quality discussions that took place within the workshops, and a credit to all who took part," he said.

“The priorities identified will inform subsequent industry discussions as we move to the next stage of our three tier priority setting process, and a subsequent Australian Dairy Industry Council (ADIC) Strategic Forum.”

Mr Campbell thanked all involved with the Summit, including dairy farmers unable to attend on the day but who contributed written or verbal feedback through their State Dairy Farming Organisation or representative body.

“Most importantly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the dedicated men and women for whom this Summit was all about – Australia’s dairy farmers.”

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