

Drive markets, trade and farm prosperity

Competition Policy: Ensure fairness in a competitive marketplace

- ✓ Establish a Mandatory Code of Conduct covering the whole supply chain to balance the market power of major retailers and appoint an Ombudsman with the 'teeth' to ensure compliance.
- ✓ Amend the Competition and Consumer Act to introduce an effects test and other changes to balance market power.
- ✓ Improve Collective Bargaining arrangements for dairy farmers to strengthen their bargaining position, providing further balance in market power.

Trade: Expand into new markets

- ✓ Bring into force the China-Australia free trade agreement (ChAFTA) as quickly as possible.
- ✓ Conclude further bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, to provide commercially meaningful opportunities for Australian dairy and reduce the industry's competitive disadvantage to its major global competitors.
- ✓ Increase the number of Agricultural Counsellor postings to help remove technical barriers to trade in key international markets such as Vietnam, the Philippines and Saudi Arabia.

Infrastructure: Facilitate growth

- ✓ Create a fund for strategic infrastructure projects beneficial to agriculture and regional communities.
- ✓ Improve transport regulation to provide a consistent and efficient framework for dairy's movement of product.

Finance and Risk Management: Provide financial certainty and security

- ✓ Provide ongoing resources for the Rural Financial Counselling Service to offer one-on-one sessions for farmers experiencing extreme financial hardship.
- ✓ Make improvements to the farm management deposit scheme and farm taxation measures.

Research, Development and Extension: Invest in an innovative dairy industry

- ✓ Strengthen the agricultural R,D&E system by continuing to commit to the rural Research and Development Corporations model, and providing ongoing financial commitment and leadership for innovative solutions to adoption in collaboration with the dairy industry, state governments and the private sector.

Biosecurity: Safeguard our livelihood

- ✓ Invest in preparedness for Foot and Mouth Disease and emergency disease response capability and surveillance.

Health and Nutrition: Clarity and consistency in dairy nutrition policy and advice

- ✓ Ensure all health and nutrition policy initiatives are consistent with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australian Dietary Guidelines.
- ✓ Provide representation to primary industry bodies as well as research and development corporations at all relevant health and nutrition policy forums.

Build a highly skilled, innovative and productive workforce

Immigration: Support a multicultural workforce

- ✓ Secure a robust industry-wide labour agreement that will give dairy farmers greater access to suitable overseas workers to help overcome the industry's chronic skilled labour shortage.
- ✓ Streamline and fast-track the application and approvals process for 457 visas for skilled dairy workers, and reverse the restrictions on 457 visas introduced by the former Government.
- ✓ Reinstate the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) Outreach Officer Programme to assist farmers with immigration matters.
- ✓ Extend the duration of 417 and 462 visas from six to twelve months.
- ✓ Include dairy on the list of eligible industries for the Seasonal Worker Scheme and on Schedule 1 of the Skilled Occupation List, and revise Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) skills descriptions.

Industrial relations: Foster flexibility

- ✓ Reduce or remove the three-hour minimum engagement requirement from the Pastoral Award 2010 or make it more flexible to acknowledge the unique workforce requirements of the dairy industry, where cows need to be milked twice daily.
- ✓ Recognise that milking is an essential part of animal care and update the Pastoral Award 2010 to include “milking” as an essential service relating to penalty rate classifications, similar to “feeding and watering stock”.

Agricultural education: Attract skilled people

- ✓ Classify Agriculture and other agriculture-related courses under the National Priority Band for compulsory HECS-HELP repayments to address skills shortages in those fields.

Farmer health and safety: Create a safer work environment

- ✓ Commit \$1.2 million over four years towards a Farm Safety Assessment Program designed to provide farmers grants to fund a three-hour farm safety assessment by an independent safety consultant (at \$300 per assessment).
- ✓ Provide the National Centre for Farmer Health and the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety with ongoing funding to enable the continuation of their valuable work.

Secure the industry's environmental sustainability

Water management: Ensure certainty and security

- ✓ Confirm a clear plan for how the Murray Darling Basin Plan Water Recovery Strategy will cap buybacks at 1500GL and deliver 600GL in infrastructure works and 650GL in environmental works.
- ✓ Include projects to increase water efficiency in the Government's water infrastructure program.
- ✓ Ensure quality regulation so the industry can continue to operate and prosper without compromising the natural resources upon which the industry relies, and without loss to reputation for producing high quality, safe dairy products.

Energy and carbon: Support dairy's contribution to emissions reductions

- ✓ Ensure adequate funding for emissions reduction programs and related research, to assist the dairy industry reduce emissions intensity including through energy efficiency assessments and transitioning to new energy technology.

Healthy soils and waterways: Support best practice farming

- ✓ Provide funding to support nutrient management programs to reduce farmers' fertiliser costs, boost soil productivity and keep waterways and lakes clean.
- ✓ Provide funding for integrated biodiversity management on farms that boosts productivity, such as shelter belts for stock and fencing off waterways.

Promote animal health and welfare standards

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle

- ✓ Nationally consistent implementation of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle.

About Australian Dairy Farmers

Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) is the national policy and advocacy body representing the interests of dairy farmers in Australia since 1942. We are a strong collective voice to Government industry and the community on national issues affecting dairy farmers and their profitability.

ADF is an incorporated company limited by guarantee and the members are the presidents of each of the six state dairy farmer organisations, and individual farmer business members.

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