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Voting for the Dairy Levy Poll Process Now Open

For immediate release

Voting to change the Dairy Levy Poll Process has opened and [Australian Dairy Farmers \(ADF\)](http://www.australiandairyfarmers.com.au) is encouraging all farmers to have their say.

The dairy industry's peak policy and advocacy group ADF urged dairy farmers to vote yes on their ballot papers, which were mailed this week to all dairy levy payers.

ADF President, Noel Campbell said levy payers need to make their views clear to the Federal Government.

"Voting yes means a Levy Poll would only be held when a change to the levy or its procedures is proposed. In short, no change, no Levy Poll," he said.

"After the last poll in 2012, the clear message from dairy farmers was that the efforts and funds dedicated towards the poll process could have been better spent delivering dollar value to dairy farmers. The change makes complete sense, saving at least \$750 000 that will be redirected to industry programs."

Mr Campbell said dairy farmers were making it clear in regional meetings across Australia that the industry should make the change.

"We want the Federal Government to be confident that's the view of levy payers, and this vote will help show dairy farmers' views" he said.

Mr Campbell reiterated that a yes vote would not remove Dairy Australia from scrutiny. Dairy Australia will still be required to undergo an independent performance review at least every five years, which will then inform an independent committee of industry representatives on whether or not a levy poll is required.

If farmers believe a poll is necessary, there is a failsafe mechanism for a group of levy payers representing at least 15 per cent of levy votes to propose a poll.

The Dairy Levy Poll Process ballot can be completed by post, email, fax or online at www.computershare.com.au/dairylevy2015 Voting will remain open until midday (AEDT) Friday 27 November.

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