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Wednesday 27 April 2016

Concerns for farmers in wake of farm gate announcements

For immediate release

[Australian Dairy Farmers Limited \(ADF\)](#) has expressed disappointment at the announcement made by [Murray Goulburn Co-operative Co Ltd \(MG\)](#) this morning, regarding their revised opening milk price of between \$4.75 and \$5.00 per kilogram milk solids (kgms) for the Financial Year 2016. MG has proposed a Milk Supply Support Package that would see farmers receive payments during FY16 equivalent to \$5.47 per kgms.

ADF President, Simone Jolliffe said that the situation is particularly troubling during a time when farmers are already experiencing hardship.

“Many farmers are already experiencing a challenging season due to dry conditions - market volatility adds to the already difficult task of managing and budgeting through such a period. This announcement will significantly damage confidence and potential investments in the dairy industry,” Mrs Jolliffe said.

“I know it’s a very frustrating situation facing farming families at this time. During times like these we need to ensure we are looking out for one another, and seeking support where possible.”

ADF is working with state dairy farming bodies and Dairy Australia, to support farmers and ensure they have access to all the resources they need.

“ADF will continue to talk to processors to understand the full impact of this announcement on the industry as a whole. We will also continue to urge them to communicate with their suppliers and explain any changes,” Mrs Jolliffe.

“Within the industry there are resources, including Dairy Australia’s [Tactics for Tight Times](#) and work being applied to help dairy farmers confront this challenge. We are working in partnership across the industry to support Australian dairy farmers in their decision making and cope with the challenges ahead.”

ADF encouraged farmers to contact their local regional development program or state dairy farming organisation for support services. Farmers looking for mental health support are encouraged to contact [Beyond Blue](#) or [Lifeline](#).

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