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Tuesday 14 June 2016

ADF calls for urgent action on dairy concessional loans

For Immediate Release

With approximately 4,000 dairy farmers impacted by unprecedented market shocks in recent weeks, Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) has called on the Federal and State Governments to stop playing politics with dairy farmers' livelihoods and make Dairy Recovery Concessional Loans available now.

Acting ADF President, David Basham said the dairy industry had welcomed the Government's efforts to provide targeted assistance but it remains essential for details to be released urgently.

"It's now been over two weeks since formal announcements were made regarding assistance for farmers. In order for these measures to be meaningful they must be delivered now," Mr Basham said.

"ADF, together with state dairy farming organisations, has clearly communicated to all levels of Government that all farmers, not only those who supply Murray Goulburn and Fonterra, need immediate access to the promised dairy loans. This must consider share-farmers and those who have previously been ineligible for government assistance due to their residency status."

The urgency for making the loans available is compounded by impending July 1 milk price announcements to be made by processors, Mr Basham said.

"Farmers need to know right now whether or not they are eligible for the 10-year Recovery Loans so they are able to compare with loans being offered by milk processors. It's time for all parties to come to the table and back industry's efforts to support farmers through the challenging times."

"Government to government bickering is helping no-one, least of all those most in need – dairy farming families. We continue to urge bipartisan support from all levels of parliament to deliver swift and comprehensive assistance for farmers, to safeguard the dairy industry's long term future."

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