
Friday 17th March

ADF welcomes independent review of the south

For Immediate Release

Australian Dairy Farmers Limited
Level 2, Swann House
22 William Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Phone +61 3 8621 4200
Fax +61 3 8621 4280

www.australiandairyfarmers.com.au

ABN 76 060 549 653

Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) welcomes the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council's agreed terms of reference for an independent analysis of socio-economic impacts of the Plan in the southern Basin.

This is the sensible outcome we have been pushing for.

Minister for Water Lisa Neville said Victoria was working with the other States and the Commonwealth to deliver an outcome which benefits farmers, regional communities and the environment.

"Given the level of community concern about further water recovery we need to be making evidence-based decisions to ensure that we are delivering on the triple bottom line outcomes," said Ms Neville.

The comprehensive assessment will ensure neutral or improved socio-economic outcomes that go beyond the specific legal requirements of the Basin Plan for the additional 450 gigalitres of water (above the target of 2,750 gigalitres).

Chair of the ADIC Water Taskforce, Daryl Hoey attended the forum with Ministers in Mildura on Thursday evening where the input of stakeholders was acknowledged.

Daryl Hoey said that there will be serious implications for the dairy industry if any more water is removed from the collective pool i.e. north and south, without first understanding the impact it will have to every district including South Australia, Queensland, Northern New South Wales and Victoria.

"We agree with government that the Basin plan needs to protect all water uses – which is why it's critical that we understand what the different water recovery levels mean for southern communities and the environment," said Mr Hoey.

Agreement was also achieved on a way to secure the remaining 650 gigalitres of water required under the plan without any more buybacks of water.

ADF along with the ADIC has long advocated for a comprehensive review of the social-economic impact for the south. We are committed to working with Government to improve the management of water in the Basin, achieve the necessary community buy-in, and achieve socio-economic outcomes while still meeting environmental targets.

-ends-

For further information, contact:

Bernadette Marr, Australian Dairy Farmers Media & Communications Manager,
Tel: 0447 161 919

Email: media@australiandairyfarmers.com.au Twitter: [@AusDairyFarmers](https://twitter.com/AusDairyFarmers)

Australian Dairy Farmers Limited (ADF) is a not-for-profit organisation representing the interests of Australian dairy farmers. We are a strong collective voice to Government and the community on national issues affecting dairy farmers and their profitability. The ADF has a long history of successfully lobbying for the rights of dairy farmers on many fronts – including trade, value chain, water, carbon and animal health and welfare issues.