

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](http://www.australiandairyfarmers.com.au)

ABN 76 060 549 653

---

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

---

**ADF welcomes the announcement by the Basin State Governments**

---

**For Immediate Release**

---

Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) welcomes the announcement of an environmental offset package to close the remaining gap to meet the Basin Plan's 2750 GL target.

Today's [announcement](#) was made by the Basin State Governments at a landmark meeting in Canberra.

Chair of the ADIC Water Taskforce, Daryl Hoey says the package means environmental water is used more efficiently, allowing the water recovery target to be reduced by over 600 GL.

"The projects recover water through complementary and efficiency projects, which is crucial for the Basin's health and reducing socio-economic pain," said Mr Hoey.

"This is why the Basin States announcement at their March meeting of an independent socio-economic analysis beyond what is legislated is so crucial.

"We look forward to working with Ernst and Young in their socio-economic analysis of the Southern Basin and in delivering a triple bottom line."

Ministers expressed confidence for the proposed environmental offset projects and measures that would deliver more than 600 GL in offsets. Mr Hoey said it was essential that the offsets package fully closed the remaining gap to meet the Plan's 2750 GL target.

"ADF has strongly advocated for the recovery of 650 GL in offsets and would like to see the Basin states deliver the full 650 GL to be sure no further water is recovered from irrigators," said Mr Hoey.

The Basin State Governments must notify the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) of the agreed offset package of projects by 30 June 2017, and the MDBA will make a final decision on the projects at the end of the year.

ADF is committed to working with Government to improve the management of water in the Basin, achieve the necessary community buy-in, and achieve positive socio-economic outcomes while meeting environmental targets.

-ends-

**For further information, contact:**

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