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ADF encourages Parliament to prioritise Australian agriculture

For Immediate Release

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Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) joined the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and the Parliamentary Friends of Primary Producers in Canberra today to recognise the nation's high quality, diverse produce at Parliament House.

A vast array of seasonal produce was on offer in the courtyards of Parliament House, where over 150 key parliamentarians were provided with insights about the range of food and fibre produced across Australia, and the hard working farmers who produce it. In collaboration with Dairy Australia, ADF provided a range of Australian Grand Dairy Award winning cheeses, as well as Sharma's Kitchen flavoured milk.

ADF President, Noel Campbell said the event was an important opportunity to establish stronger ties with decision makers and to demonstrate that supportive policy can provide the confidence for farmers to invest in best practice initiatives and for the wider industry to invest in a strong future.

"We want to ensure every Member of Parliament understands the challenges and opportunities facing our primary food producers. We are working to invest in ourselves," Mr Campbell said.

"But it is not just up to us – industry and government must work together to ensure Australian agriculture reaches its full potential."

As a \$13 billion farm, processing and export industry, Australian dairy is Australia's number one value-adding agricultural industry. It generates almost \$3 billion in exports, and puts a range of quality dairy products in nine out of ten Aussie homes every day.

More than 39,000 people are directly employed on dairy farms and throughout the processing sector, and a further 100,000 Australians rely on dairy for their livelihoods, including veterinarians, scientists, mechanics, financial advisers and feed suppliers.

"With every block of cheese, tub of yoghurt and bottle of infant formula we aim to be more prosperous, trusted and world renowned for our nutrition than ever before," Mr Campbell said.

"Today is about helping our key decision makers understand the value our industry delivers to Australian businesses, families and communities, and highlighting how decisions made in Canberra affect our capacity to produce. We look forward to continuing these conversations to ensure a more sustainable, profitable future for Australian dairy."

ADF acknowledged the effort of the NFF who helped bring the Australian Parliament Farmers' Market to Canberra, and extended its thanks to the Co-convenors of the Parliamentary Friends of Primary Producers, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP and Nola Marino MP, together with GrainGrowers Limited, for assisting with the organisation of this event.

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