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Voters say “yes” to Levy Poll Process Review recommendations

For Immediate Release

Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) has acknowledged the result of voting on the Dairy Levy Poll Process Review, with the majority of voters in favour of the recommended changes.

“The essential question for levy payers was whether they believed we should opt for a levy poll only when a change in the levy was being sought,” said ADF President, Simone Jolliffe.

“Every Australian dairy levy payer has been contacted through this consultation. Levy payers have been provided opportunity to comment and to vote for or against the recommendations of the review. The most significant recommendation is that a levy poll should only be held if a change to the levy is proposed.

“The response from dairy levy payers including through the vote, which closed on Friday 27 November, provides a strong signal that dairy farmers believe the industry should make the changes to the levy poll process.”

Should the changes be implemented, if farmers believe a poll is necessary, there is a failsafe mechanism for a group of levy payers representing at least 15% of levy votes to propose at a Dairy Australia general meeting, that a poll be held.

The levy payer consultation included a vote that drew 24.70% of votes, with 89.95% voting in support of the recommended changes.

“Against the benchmark of a shareholder vote, the consultation and voter turnout for this review demonstrates strong engagement and support by levy payers,” Mrs Jolliffe said.

Mrs Jolliffe said the Federal Government would now be advised of the outcomes of the three month consultation process.

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