

7th March 2023

Dear Dr Ellis,

Re: ANIMAL SECTOR AMR PLAN 2022-2028 - CONSULTATION

Thank you for your presentation to the Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) Farm Operations Policy Advisory Group on March 1st, 2023. As discussed, following completion of the online survey (submitted in February), ADF has a few additional recommendations to make.

ADF is the national policy and advocacy body providing collective representation for dairy farmers in Australia. ADF has been representing the national interests of dairy farmers for over 70 years in its own right, as a member of Australian Dairy Industry Council, the National Farmers' Federation and Animal Health Australia.

Our members include representatives from United Dairy Farmers of Victoria (UDV), Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA), South Australian Dairy Association (SADA), West Australian Farmers (WAF), Queensland Dairy Farmers (QDO) and New South Wales Farmers.

General comments

The Australian dairy industry commits to striving for the health, welfare and best care for all our animals throughout their lives. The ADF Farm Operations Policy Advisory Group (PAG) aims to maintain and improve Australia's animal health and welfare system through cooperative programs aligned with other industries and governments. ADF and Dairy Australia are members of the Animal Industries' Antimicrobial Stewardship R, D & E Strategy (AIAS) and Goal 7 of the Australian Industry Sustainability Framework; "Provide best care for all animals for whole of life" includes targets for responsible antibiotic use.

The Australian dairy industry supports the development of an animal sector AMR plan and commends the Department on its alignment of the plan with the One Health Master Action Plan (OHMAP).

Additional comments arising from the Policy Advisory Group meeting

While there was an acknowledgement of the need to establish a method of collecting and reporting antimicrobial use data, there was a strong suggestion that this should not result in an additional impost on farmers. It was suggested that the following methods of AMU data collection be investigated and/or implemented:

- Integration of existing record management platforms into a central database (with privacy and data access issues addressed)
- Linking with existing auditing systems (for example food safety)
- Simple recording methods (such as bar codes on drug labels)

Yours Sincerely

Craig Hough

On behalf of Australian Dairy Farmers