

30 July 2024

Hon Julie Collins MP  
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Minister for Small Business  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: [julie.collins.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:julie.collins.mp@aph.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF), I would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations on your appointment as the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Your leadership comes at a pivotal time for the agriculture sector, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the Australian dairy industry.

The Australian dairy industry holds a vital position in our nation's agricultural landscape, being the third largest agricultural industry in Australia. Our dairy farmers are world leaders in quality, innovation, and sustainability, producing milk and dairy products that are in high demand both domestically and internationally. The industry's success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our dairy farmers, who have built a reputation for excellence and resilience.

However, despite our achievements, the dairy industry faces challenges that require strategic policy support and robust collaboration between government and industry stakeholders. Among these challenges are the ongoing issues of profitability, sustainability, and regulation.

Dairy farmers are grappling with the impacts of fluctuating milk prices, rising production costs, and market power imbalance. In regions like the Murray-Darling Basin, farmers are also contending with water scarcity and the need for effective support measures.

Furthermore, the recent avian influenza outbreaks in Victoria and New South Wales highlight the critical need for improved biosecurity measures and support systems to protect our livestock.

In light of these pressing issues, we believe it is important for you to have a comprehensive understanding of the on-ground realities faced by our dairy farmers. We would welcome hosting you for a site visit to one of our leading dairy farming regions.

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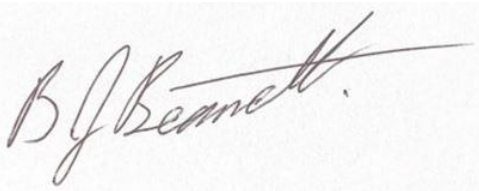
This visit will provide you with the opportunity to engage directly with industry experts and local farmers, witness firsthand the innovative practices that make our industry a global leader and discuss the issues impacting our sector.

We are confident that a visit will strengthen the partnership between you and your office and the dairy industry, paving the way for collaborative efforts to address the challenges and harness the opportunities ahead.

We look forward to your positive response and the opportunity to welcome you to our dairy community. Please let us know your availability, and location preferences we will make all the necessary arrangements to ensure a productive and informative visit.

Thank you once again for your commitment to the agricultural sector, and we look forward to working with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or our CEO, Stephen Sheridan.

Yours sincerely



Ben Bennett  
**President**  
Australian Dairy Farmers

C.C.

Stephen Sheridan

+61 408 664 841

[ssheridan@australiandairyfarmers.com.au](mailto:ssheridan@australiandairyfarmers.com.au)