

5 August 2024

Hon Julie Collins MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
House of Representatives | Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
E: julie.collins.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Australian Dairy Industry Council (ADIC), we extend our warm congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The Australian dairy industry holds a special place in our agricultural heritage and stands as the third-largest agricultural industry in the country. Our industry is renowned globally for its innovation, sustainability, and quality, with an ever-growing demand for our products both domestically and internationally. This success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our dairy processors and farmers, who have built a reputation for excellence and resilience.

However, we are facing significant challenges that require effective collaboration between industry stakeholders and government. Key issues include the declining milk pool, rising production costs, access to labour, evolving trade requirements, and increasing regulatory burdens that threaten our stability and competitiveness.

Moreover, the ongoing threat of biosecurity outbreaks underscores the critical need for enhanced engagement between the department and the dairy industry. The recent threat of lumpy skin disease highlights how crucial vigilant detection efforts and preventative measures are to avoid significant economic impacts on our industry.

ADIC would like to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss these issues and explore ways we can support you in your new role. We would also welcome hosting you and your advisors on a visit to a dairy farm and dairy processing facility to learn firsthand the challenges and opportunities facing the industry.

Thank you for your continued support of Australia's dairy industry. We look forward to meeting with you soon. Should you have any questions, or to arrange a meeting, please phone Australian Dairy Farmers CEO Stephen Sheridan on 0408 664 841.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Bennett
Chair – Australian Dairy Industry Council
President – Australian Dairy Farmers



John Williams
Deputy Chair – Australian Dairy Industry Council
Chair – Australian Dairy Products Federation