

# Australian Dairy Farmers Industry Services



**\$14 Million**



## Priority

Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) is vital for Australia's 4,100 dairy farmers, providing critical industry-good services. As farmers face rising costs, labour shortages, tightening regulations, environmental pressures, and biosecurity threats, ADF's services and leadership is more vital than ever. With farm numbers declining and investment shrinking, strengthening ADF's capacity to support dairy farmers is crucial to protecting sovereign capability, ensuring national food security, and securing the long-term sustainability of Australian dairy farming.

## Relevance

Strengthening ADF aligns with government priorities highlighted in workforce capacity studies which stress the need to support primary producers in addressing labour shortages and improving workforce management. The National Biosecurity Strategy emphasises the importance of strong industry partnerships to mitigate biosecurity risks that threaten Australian agriculture. Additionally, the Australian Food Story: Feeding the Nation and Beyond report underscores the role of a secure, sustainable, and productive dairy industry in maintaining domestic nutritional food supply, and food safety.

## Proposal

A \$14 million program over three years to secure industry growth by:

### 1. Securing labour, investment and intergenerational renewal

- Establish a dairy-specific one-stop industrial relations and visa guidance service that promotes successful programs and guidance from national and state-based institutions. Additionally, providing services aimed at supporting dairy farmers navigate changed visa programs and workforce regulation changes
- Develop a dairy farm investment framework to attract private sector and foreign trade partner investment, reduce investment barriers and expand co-investment models like equity partnerships, share farming and co-operative resource sharing, storage and production
- Develop a fast-track entry program for new dairy farmers through connecting new farmers with experienced dairy operators, offering business planning support, succession transition, financial management and skills development to ensure successful farm transitions and intergenerational renewal

### 2. Enhanced delivery of critical biosecurity functions and industry partnerships.

- Enhance biosecurity preparedness through development and promotion on-farm biosecurity measures to protect Australia's dairy herd from emerging disease risks
- Strengthen industry partnerships domestically and internationally through agreements with bodies like Farmsafe, SafeMeat and Animal Health Australia, to improve farmer welfare, livestock health, and traceability

### 3. Securing delivery of industry-good functions

- Formal recognition as a levy-recipient body under the agricultural levies legislative framework to establish the secure delivery of ongoing industry-good services. From year three, with industry support, this recognition will ensure continued delivering of these critical farmer services

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## Budget

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
\$6 million	\$5 million	\$3 million

## Justification

- Drives economic growth through dairy investment especially in regional economies
- Supports workforce development by improving retention, efficiency, and safety
- Strengthens biosecurity under the National Biosecurity Strategy
- Improves farm efficiency while navigating regulatory requirements
- Secures fair and equitable industry good function delivery under the agricultural levies legislation

## About Australian Dairy Farmers

Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) is the national policy and advocacy body working to improve the sustainability and profitability of Australian dairy farming. Since 1942, ADF has represented farmers across six dairying states on key issues like trade, water, environment, milk pricing, workforce, biosecurity and animal welfare. ADF provides industry-good functions and serves as a strong collective voice to government, industry, and the community. Australian dairy provides crucial high-quality nutritional products, ensures food security, and strengthens the economy. The industry's viability and productivity is essential for a strong reliable dairy supply that supports communities and Australians' health.

## Contact Us

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