

# Media Release



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## **SA Dairy Farmers Release Policy Expectations for SA General Election.**

The South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association (SADA) today released their policy statement and called upon all political parties in SA to adopt them.

The simple policy document is not a comprehensive charter regarding all issues that face the industry today but rather matters that can be attended to immediately by South Australia's leaders no matter who forms government in March.

*"Each party will have its own policies on matters affecting the Primary Sector,"* SADA President John Hunt, said today.

*"Many of the issues that we raise are not merely limited to Dairy but nevertheless have a profound impact on our industry,"* he said.

*"What we are, however, is tired of being at the bottom of Government's thinking and we'll be looking for actual commitments rather than platitudes for an industry which returns \$1 billion to the State and can grow jobs in both regional and metropolitan South Australia",* he said.

Areas of concern are:

### **NRM Levies**

The NRM is a good idea awfully executed. It is using regional rate payers funds to support a bloating bureaucracy in an over centralized system. The NRM was never about public servants it was about local decision making for local action.

### **Transport/Infrastructure**

Continue to roll out the current iteration of the 90 Transport Project. This should be easy for all parties to commit to as it is simply about collaboration and expenditure is already accounted for in the forward estimates.

### **ACCC Recommendations**

The ACCC interim report has found that dairy producers are being shafted. There needs to be an enforceable Mandatory Code of Conduct introduced. SADA expects all political parties to throw their weight behind this proposal as a matter of urgency.

### **Electricity/Energy**

Power prices and reliability in SA both make it hard to run a business. There are simple steps such as energy audits and on farm research which can dampen these impacts that should be supported by the SA Government. This should include a grants program that will assist farmers to research the development of on-farm storage and generation systems and alternatives



## **Mining/Gas**

Government has a dreadful track record when dealing with farmers on mining. The fracking debate has only highlighted the effect. SADA is not anti-mining per-se, but the Government must consult, negotiate and obtain permission from landowners before it proceeds.

The arrogant “all minerals vest in the Crown so we’ll take what we want”, approach will damage the reputation of South Australia as one of the premier food and wine growing jurisdictions in the world.

We do not accept that you can risk the renewable premium future of SA against a short-term return from an exhaustible commodity.

## **R & D funding and priorities.**

South Australia’s commitment to its primary sector has decayed into the platitudinal over the past 20 years. Whilst purring reassuring words government has consistently shifted increasing costs onto farmers whilst whittling away at its fundamental supporting roles in the areas of research and development.

PIRSA must remain its own department, resourced and supported in accordance important work that it does on behalf of the people of the state to support SA dairy farmers. Research funding must be restored to the place where it was when it supported useful and dependable work for all dairy farmers.

*“I moved to South Australia from New Zealand many years ago because I could see the future of Dairy so clearly here. I still believe in South Australia and its dairy future, but we need some political leadership and courage.”*, SADA President John Hunt said.

*“These are not monumental requests but if agreed to much faith could be restored to our industry sector.”*

Full policy document attached.

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