

JOURNAL

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From the President

Robert Brokenshire

As we look towards another busy period for our industry, I would like to begin by congratulating SADA member **Narelle Zanker** on her outstanding achievement in being named the **2026 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award national winner**.

Narelle's recognition is a wonderful moment for South Australian dairy and a testament to the contribution women make across our industry and regional communities. Through Dairy Adventures, Narelle has shown the value of connecting consumers, particularly young people, with farming and the origins of their food. Her passion, leadership and commitment to agricultural education make her a deserving recipient of this national honour. On behalf of SADA, congratulations, Narelle—we are incredibly proud of you.

Keeping agriculture on the national agenda

Many of you may have seen the recent *Sunday Mail* coverage following *The Advertiser's For Farmers' Sake* documentary series, which featured a roundtable discussion with myself and fellow South Australian farmers Elden Oster and Gavin Schuster. The discussion provided an important opportunity to speak candidly about the challenges facing agriculture and the need for governments to give the sector the attention, understanding and support it deserves. My comments reflected the frustration felt by many farmers, particularly around the response to drought and the lack of a stronger focus on agriculture at the federal level.

Agriculture is fundamental to South

Australia's economy, regional communities and national food security. It is essential that governments recognise the contribution our sector makes and work with farmers to ensure we can continue to operate sustainably and competitively. SADA will continue to advocate strongly for our members and for policies that support the future of dairy farming.

Dairy Animal Care Assurance Program

SADA welcomes the development of the [Dairy Animal Care Assurance Program](#) (DACAP), which aims to provide a nationally consistent, industry-led approach to animal care assurance. The program will build on existing on-farm practices and quality assurance systems, with a focus on being practical, credible and workable for Australia's diverse dairy farms. SADA looks forward to opportunities for members to contribute as the program progresses.

Could you be a SADA Board Member?

As SADA continues to grow and evolve, we are seeking people interested in contributing to the future direction of the Association by joining our Board.

SADA is a diverse organisation, operating as the **State Dairy Farming Organisation (SDFO) member of Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF)**, while maintaining strong connections with DairySafe and Dairy Australia. These relationships help ensure South Australian dairy farmers remain connected, informed and represented across the changing environment of the entire supply chain.

The SADA Board has an important

If you have an interest in helping shape the future of SADA, I encourage you to consider putting your hand up. We welcome a diversity of perspectives and encourage members who are passionate about the future of South Australian dairy to get involved.

responsibility in setting and reviewing the Association's strategic direction, overseeing risks and compliance, and helping ensure a strong and sustainable future for our members and the broader dairy supply chain.

As the organisation continues to develop its services, Board members need to keep up to date with changing governance and regulatory requirements across areas such as operations, finance, audit, risk, governance, community engagement and advocacy.

Looking ahead

As always, SADA remains focused on ensuring the voice of South Australian dairy farmers is heard across the issues that matter most—from farm sustainability and animal care to workforce, water, market conditions and the broader operating environment.

Thank you to our members for your continued engagement and support. Your input is vital to ensuring SADA remains a strong and effective advocate for the industry.



Stay Informed. Stay Connected. Become a Valued SADA Member

We've had a few new Members recently, If you've considered becoming a valued member of your industry body, now's the time! You're not only supporting a strong, united voice for South Australian dairy, you're also gaining access to the most relevant information affecting your business. [JOIN NOW](#)

From the SADA Desk: What you need to know

These are things that have come to our attention over the past month which might be of interest to you. If there is anything that you think we have missed or you would like to see in the newsletter, please email: sada@sada.asn.au



From Young Farmer Award winner to national Rural Women's Award winner.

In 2025, **Narelle Zanker** was recognised as SADA's **Young Farmer Award winner**, celebrating her passion, leadership and commitment to the future of South Australian dairy.

Fast forward to 2026, and Narelle has taken that passion to the national stage, being named the **2026 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award National Winner**.

A dairy farmer, educator and co-founder of **Dairy Adventures**, Narelle is doing an incredible job of sharing the story of dairy, connecting consumers with farming and inspiring the next generation to engage with agriculture.

Her achievement is not only a win for Narelle, but a proud moment for **South Australia and our entire dairy industry**.

She is putting a national spotlight on the people, innovation and passion behind our industry. From a SADA Young Farmer Award to a national award winner — **what a year, Narelle!** 🏆 🥇 🥈 🥉

SADA is incredibly proud to see one of our members achieving such wonderful recognition on the national stage.

Congratulations, Narelle!



Moo-dern Masterpiece Take Top Honours

Congratulations to **Hahndorf Primary School**, whose colourful cow, "Sweet Cowaline", has won the **Overall Winner** title in Dairy Australia's 2026 Picasso Cows program! Hahndorf students explored dairy nutrition and even made butter as part of their learning. A special mention to **Narelle Zanker**, who joined the judging panel as a Dairy Australia farmer ambassador, recognising the students' curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm. 🌱 🥛

Find out more:

[Dairy Australia – Picasso Cows](#)



'Cooking with Cows',

a heartfelt celebration marking the 10th anniversary of Power of Women in Dairying (POW). This book is more than just a collection of recipes - it is a celebration of a dairy-loving community. A community that is filled with a rich mixture of talented and remarkable individuals who breathe life into the Australian dairy industry and beyond.

[PURCHASE NOW](#)



Senate Inquiry Highlights

Need for Urgent

Telecommunications Action

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has welcomed a Senate inquiry report into Triple Zero failures, highlighting the need for stronger regulation and more reliable mobile services, particularly in regional areas. The report recommends measures including domestic mobile roaming, minimum reliability standards, automatic compensation for outages, SMS access to Triple Zero and modernising telecommunications legislation. NFF President Hamish McIntyre said the recommendations reflected long-standing concerns from farmers about unreliable mobile coverage.

Having connectivity issues? SADA held a regional meeting in September to hear directly from members and has developed a strong partnership with **Telstra** to help address connectivity concerns. If you're experiencing mobile or connectivity issues, [please use this link to contact Telstra](#) or contact SADA directly to discuss how we can best assist you.



Slowing milk supply and growing protein demand reshape global dairy outlook

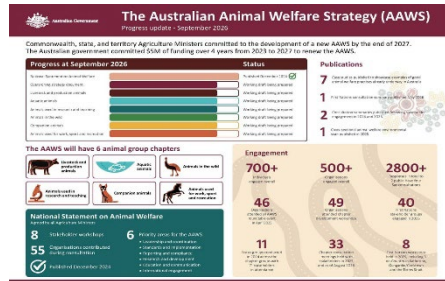
Australia's dairy sector is expected to continue growing in 2026/27 – although at a more measured pace – as global dairy markets enter a period of transition, according to Rabobank's latest dairy market outlook. The report, **Q3 Global Dairy Quarterly**, from the specialist agribusiness bank's RaboResearch division, finds that while milk production across major exporting regions continues to expand, growth is slowing markedly and global market fundamentals are increasingly being shaped by tightening farmer margins, weather risks and strengthening demand for dairy proteins. Report co-author RaboResearch senior dairy analyst Michael Harvey said the outlook for Australian dairy producers remained broadly positive, supported by stable domestic market conditions and resilient international demand, particularly for protein-rich dairy products.



Land Access Support: Reach Out to SADA First

Have you been approached about exploration, mining or a renewable energy development on your property? Land access discussions can raise important questions about your rights, responsibilities and the processes involved. SADA encourages members to reach out to SADA in the first instance if they are contacted about a proposed development or land access arrangement. SADA can help members understand the issue, identify relevant information and connect them with appropriate industry or government contacts where needed. Landowners can also access the Landowner Information Service (LIS), which provides free, independent and impartial information to South Australian landowners, farmers and regional communities navigating resources exploration, mining, quarrying and renewable energy developments, including hydrogen, solar, wind and battery storage. LIS officers can explain legislation, notices and agreement-making processes in plain English, and help landowners prepare for conversations and negotiations with companies. Whether you have received a Notice of Entry, been contacted by a company or simply want to understand a proposed development in your area, make sure you seek reliable information before making decisions about access to your land.

For SADA members, please contact SADA in the first instance for guidance and support.



Australian Animal Welfare Strategy – Next Steps

The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) renewal is progressing, with feedback received during consultation on the draft overarching strategy now being carefully considered. A high-level **‘Feedback at a Glance’** report has been released, highlighting the key themes raised through consultation. While it does not capture every individual view, it provides an overview of the feedback received. The six animal group chapters, along with the overarching strategy, are now being prepared for release as **one document for public consultation in late 2026**. This will be the **third and final Have Your Say consultation**, providing stakeholders with the final opportunity to comment on the proposed strategy. Following this consultation, feedback will be incorporated before the strategy undergoes final governance review in 2027. SADA will continue to keep members informed as the process progresses and consultation opportunities become available.



PPSA Update

PPSA recently met with PIRSA to discuss a range of key issues affecting South Australian primary producers, with SADA representing the dairy industry at the meeting. Discussions covered the ongoing impacts of **fuel supply disruptions** in regional areas, implementation of the **new Biosecurity Act**, **drought support measures**, **climate change initiatives**, and the future of agriculture under **South Australia's Net Zero Agriculture Initiative**. PPSA reinforced the need for practical and science-based emissions reduction pathways, recognition of farmers' existing land stewardship practices, and greater certainty around carbon and offset policies.

Updates were also provided on **varroa mite management**, **water licensing**, land use planning, and the continuing review of regional industry priorities. SADA continues to work through PPSA to ensure the interests of South Australian dairy farmers are represented in discussions with PIRSA and government on policies that impact farm businesses and the broader dairy industry.

Murray-Darling Basin Plan Review

PPSA has prepared a submission advocating for South Australian primary producers, calling for a balance between environmental, social and economic outcomes. The submission supports maximising existing environmental water, protecting farming communities and ensuring reliable water access. It also highlights the need for improved water quality, transparent management, science-based decisions and investment in practical environmental solutions before any further water recovery.



ADC Innovators Award 2027

Have you developed an innovation, trial or project that could make a difference to the Australian dairy industry? Applications are now open for the 2027 ADC Innovators Award, sponsored by the Gardiner Foundation. The award celebrates fresh and emerging dairy innovations with the potential to create a meaningful impact across the industry. Previous winners include Grant Rogers for the [Knowby App](#) in 2025 and Daniel Carson from Alps2Ocean for Miti beef in 2026. What will be the next big dairy innovation? The award provides an opportunity to showcase your research, on-farm trial, project or scientific exploration to the national dairy industry at ADC 2027, Adelaide, 24–26 February 2027. Have an innovation you'd like to put forward? We love hearing about the great work happening across our dairy industry. Submission closes 14 October 2026. [ADC Innovators Award Information & Requirements](#)

Urgent Working Holiday Maker Visa Priority Processing

SADA, through PPSA, is working with the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) to address workforce pressures caused by extended Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa processing times, which may now reach three months.

A priority processing pathway has been established with the Department of Home Affairs to identify genuine, urgent cases where delays could significantly impact farm operations.

Who is eligible?

Farm businesses may submit requests where the worker:

- Has already applied for a WHM visa.
- Has been identified for work on a specific farm.
- Is required urgently to meet critical business needs.

How to apply

Members with urgent workforce needs should complete the [WHM Visa Priority Processing Form](#), providing the farm's details, employment start date and the applicant's visa information. PPSA will collate eligible requests and forward them to the NFF each working day at 2pm for submission to Home Affairs.

Please note: Priority processing is not guaranteed, and all applications remain subject to normal visa requirements and assessment.

SADA and PPSA, alongside the NFF, will continue advocating for migration settings that recognise agriculture's workforce needs and support the long-term sustainability of regional communities. If you have an urgent case that meets the criteria, please contact SADA as soon as possible.



Sponsoring and Retaining Overseas Employees

Sponsoring overseas employees can bring many benefits to a farm business. Increasingly, farmers are utilising this option to recruit motivated, reliable people for their team.

Dairy Industry Labour Agreement

Fadi Malek is the Managing Director of Global Skilled Employment Services and has detailed knowledge of the DILA. Fadi will cover the practicalities of the process, timelines, approximate costs, visa options, and employer obligations. He will also discuss strategies for retaining and developing overseas employees.

Q & A session

The session will include a Q & A giving participants the opportunity to ask questions and gain practical information relevant to their own farm and circumstances.



**Delivering
for Dairy**

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Mt Gambier

Wednesday 28 October 2026

Mac's Hotel, Mt Gambier

6:00pm – 9:00pm



<https://qr1.be/V9FP2C>

Dinner provided – RSVP essential for catering purposes.

Online session

Monday 23 November 2026

WA – 11:00am

SA – 1:30pm



<https://qr1.be/VC49WL>

Contact

Melva Tyson

People Experience Lead – Dairy Australia

E: melva.tyson@dairyaustralia.com.au

P: 0439 667 425

Register your interest by scanning the QR Code or using the link provided

Continuing to advocate for agriculture

While this process may assist with urgent workforce needs, it is not a long-term solution. Australian agriculture relies on access to both skilled and unskilled overseas workers, who make an important contribution not only to farm businesses but also to regional communities and local economies.

The NFF and industry organisations, including SADA and PPSA, will continue advocating for workforce and migration settings that recognise agriculture's unique needs and support the long-term sustainability of regional Australia. There has been changes regarding skilled migration in recent weeks however agriculture is again recognised as a priority industry. If you believe you have a case that meets the criteria, please contact us as soon as possible and consider the workshop below.



Could You Be a SADA Board Member?

Help shape the future of South Australian dairy

The South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association (SADA) is a diverse and evolving organisation, playing a key role as the State Farming Organisation (SFO) representing South Australian dairy farmers within the national advocacy body, Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF). SADA also maintains strong connections with Dairy SA and Dairy Australia, helping ensure dairy farmers remain informed, connected and supported as the operating environment across the entire supply chain continues to change.

A strong voice for our members

The SADA Board plays an important role in setting and reviewing the Association's strategic direction, supporting sound decision-making and helping secure a strong future for our members and the broader dairy industry. The Board oversees organisational performance, existing and emerging risks, and compliance across all areas of the business. It also contributes to the continued development of SADA's services and its role in industry advocacy, governance and community engagement.

Help build a prosperous future

SADA is committed to a long and prosperous future. As the organisation continues to grow and develop its services to meet members' needs, Board members must be willing to stay informed about evolving governance and regulatory requirements, including in:

- Operations and finance
- Audit and risk management
- Governance and compliance
- Community engagement
- Industry advocacy
- Strategic planning and organisational development

If you are passionate about the future of South Australian dairy, bring valuable skills or experience, and are interested in contributing to the direction of the industry, we would love to hear from you.

Find out more

To learn more about joining the SADA

Board: Visit: www.sada.asn.au

Phone: 8293 2399 or Email:

sada@sada.asn.au



What really happens when SafeWork investigations?

Join us as we cover what triggers an investigation, what inspectors can ask for, how to protect your business and how a real investigation unfolded.

Candid Conversations: Navigating a SafeWork Investigation

Date: Tuesday, 13th October

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm AEDT

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)



Dairy Australia

Upcoming Workshops

October

6 & 13 October [Farm Business Fundamentals - Adelaide Hills | Dairy Australia](#)

14 October [Euthanise Livestock - South East SA | Dairy Australia](#)

20 October [Disbudding Best Practice Workshop - Adelaide Hills | Dairy Australia](#)

22 October [Disbudding Best Practice Workshop - Mt Gambier | Dairy Australia](#)

28 October [Sponsoring and Retaining Overseas Workers](#)

November

19 – 20 November [Farm Business Fundamentals - Mt Gambier | Dairy Australia](#)

December

1, 2, 8 & 9 December [2IC/Managers Course - Adelaide Hills | Dairy Australia](#)

Discussion Group Christmas catchups to be announced

