

Members Newsletter



From the President

Robert Brokenshire

Firstly on behalf of the SADA Team may I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and successful 2024. Hopefully the pace of next year will slow a little compared to this year which seemed to be one of living in a whirlwind with the year going fast. Compared to most dairy producing countries **milk pricing** in Australia has held up for 2023/24, yes it is fact that processors with a large export base are finding it tough internationally however most commentators in the last few weeks are reporting hope for export demand to pick up in 2024. Obviously we are seeing inflation and higher interest rates dampening consumption overseas as well as in Australia. Early next year SADA will launch the new **Dairy Action Plan 2024 to 2029** with one of our goals to increase milk production this should be a real opportunity going forward as the State Gov-

ernment have projected population growth in the Greater Adelaide Area to be approximately 650,000 people by 2050 and that growth will demand much more Dairy product domestically. Please read the article by Lyndon Cleggett on the **BJD program** that PIRSA are now handing responsibility to manage to SADA this will also help us to focus more on **biosecurity** which is becoming more important for a sustainable dairy future. On that note whether we like it or not consumers are requesting and governments are pushing for more focus on **environmental management** by all agricultural commodities. Internationally some of that push has resulted in draconian policies for Farmers, SADA on your behalf will continue to advocate to our governments for a sensible balanced and workable set of policies that meet the demands of our consumers without preventing us from growing

our industry and helping grow the South Australian and Australian economy. We need to point out that populist knee jerk reaction policy such as we have seen overseas damages a nations economy and potentially sovereignty of a country.

As always if we can help with any concerns you have we encourage you to contact us at anytime either by phoning the SADA office, contacting your [local board member](#) or myself Robert Brokenshire 0419 815 990.

WFI SADA Partnership

If you take out a policy with **WFI**, SADA receives a commission from WFI of 7.5% of the policy premium. Make sure when your next speaking with WFI that you mention your a SADA Member to get the discounts.



SADA has spent much of this year working across many policy and advocacy areas affecting all dairies across our great state. Without your membership support this would not be possible.

Please ensure that your membership and supplier details are current and up to date.

<https://share.hsforms.com/1AwYKsxjQ1inwndbn2NbYQd5tpo>



Redefining the Johne's Program

Around 18 months ago PIRSA indicated they wanted to shift their focus and resources from managing and implementing the Johne's Program to foot and mouth disease and lumpy skin disease as they saw a greater need for this. The funding for the Johne's Program comes from Cattle Industry Fund out of levies from the sale of NLIS tags in South Australia.

Under PIRSA the program had become very expensive to maintain and keep viable.

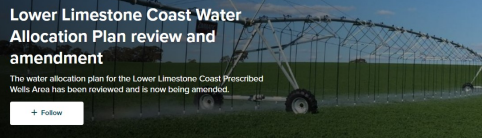
I encourage SADA to tender for the running of the Johne's program in the future. SADA tendered for the opportunity to run the Johne's program and were successful in that tender. I believe the tender from SADA is much more viable and this will result in substantial savings for the CIF fund.

The importance of maintaining the program was reinforced to me in England this year when I was involved in several discussions around the concerns that scientists are still trying to link Johne's to Crohn's disease. If this ever happens it could be devastating to the cattle industry.

In South Australia we have minimal infections and to maintain and better that position it can only be positive for the livestock industry.

In the long-term future in the dairy industry, we could see changes as it has now been shown that with good calf rearing programs and keeping young stock separate to older ones, if you have Johne's infections it's possible to breed it out of a herd over a period. So, with HEC testing this could be very beneficial for the dairy industry in the future.

Lyndon Clegett



Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan review and amendment

The water allocation plan for the Lower Limestone Coast Prescribed Wells Area has been reviewed and is now being amended.

Follow

A process to amend the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan (the Plan) is set to begin in early 2024. The transition to amendment follows the conclusion of an 18 month review period which found that change to the Plan is required for it to remain appropriate for the region.

As with the review there will be a number of ways in which groups and individuals can be involved in the amendment of the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan and these will be announced as the opportunities arise.

We encourage you visit the Plan's dedicated project page to keep up to date with and contribute to the amendment process .



On-farm Emergency Water Rebate Scheme

Apply now

On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

A new round of the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme is open for applications. The scheme supports primary producers across South Australia to access funding to install on-farm water infrastructure.

For further details on the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme, including guidelines and application forms, visit the [On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme](#). Applications close on Tuesday 30 April 2024 at 5.00 pm ACST, or when all funds are allocated.



The Australian Farmer digital journal now available DEC 2023 LIVE EDITION

TAF, a free online journal of distinction now well into its 7th year, has been updated with more than 100 pages of brand new content in the last 12 months since SADA's previous announcement.

Dairy Industry workforce development needed



SADA recognises the ongoing importance of a skilled and appropriately trained workforce to maintain our dynamic industry. Developments in technology and management systems, increased complexity in understanding and managing sustainability and improvements in animal nutrition and well being all require a more skilled and focused workforce. Such as;

- Research is underway into the dynamics of a [trade apprenticeship](#) in agriculture to help attract new entrants and promote career pathways in agriculture. SADA has been involved in discussing various options for an apprenticeship model. More detailed engagement is to come and we need to make sure that an apprenticeship model is fit for purpose for SA dairy farmers. A [short survey](#) is available for input between till 28 January 2024.
- Equally, it is important that dairy has an input into the [2024 Skills Priority List](#). This list is used by Jobs and Skills Australia to inform government of recruitment challenges and occupations that might be in shortage across the Australian labour market. Where such gaps exist across the dairy sector (and they do), it is important that they are known. The [2024 Skills Priority List \(SPL\) stakeholder survey](#) by [Jobs and Skills Australia](#) (JSA) is now open until 5pm (AEDT) Friday 23 February 2024.
- The government continues to consider [off shore labour](#) and skills. This consists of complex national policy, it is important that dairy has a strong and considered position which can be articulated to Ministers and Departments.



Message from the Minister

Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

MONDAY 04 DECEMBER 2022

Dear partners in primary industries and regions, I am pleased to inform you that the [Veterinary Services Bill 2023](#) has now passed both houses of Parliament and will now be referred to as the *Veterinary Services Act 2023*.

This is a significant milestone in the State Government's ambitious legislative reform agenda to deliver modern and flexible legislation that strengthens our primary industries, maintains our natural environ-

ment and safeguards plant and animal health.

The new Act will ensure that the legislation aligns with both the contemporary nature of the veterinary profession and the standards expected by users and providers of veterinary services. Veterinarians play a key role in animal, human and community wellbeing by maintaining the health and welfare of our pets and the productivity and growth of our livestock industries. The *Veterinary Services Act 2023* recognises significant changes that have occurred to the profession during the past 20 years, including changes in practice models and location, employment type, species serviced, and specialities offered, and an increase in mainstream non-veterinary care services.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) will work closely with the

[Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia](#) to prepare for the commencement of the new Act, with the aim of ensuring a smooth transition. In the meantime, and until commencement of the *Veterinary Services Act 2023*, the [Veterinary Practice Act 2003](#) remains in effect.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this important process. The State Government, through PIRSA, will continue to prioritise collaboration between government, industry stakeholders, and the community as part of the reform process for our primary industries and regions. I encourage you to take all future opportunities to engage and collaborate with us in delivering comprehensive and forward-thinking legislation. By doing so, we will position our primary industries and regional communities to be resilient and prosperous for generations to come.



UPDATE [Greater Adelaide Regional Plan](#)



- Submissions will be published online. The completed GARP is expected to be approved by the Commission in late-2024.
- Research on the next generation of Regional Plans has already commenced.
- All Regional Plans will be undertaken concurrently, the 6 Country Plans are expected to be completed prior to the GARP

PPSA's engagement with the State Planning Commission, involved a quarterly meeting with Commissioner Craig Holden, during which time key points arising from the PPSA submission were discussed and received a briefing on current projects:

- The Commission proposes to review and strengthen **interface management policies in the Planning and Design Code**, focussing on sensitive land uses developed in proximity of existing industrial and employment activities, to protect the ongoing operations of existing industries. This will go to consultation in early 2024.
- In response to concerns regarding urban encroachment on farming land, a Ministerial directive has been issued to local governments to suspend approval for "Rural Living" allotments being ap-

proved in proximity to regional townships. This will be reviewed as part of the regional plan reviews, as the view is this class of rezoning is limiting urban growth potential for housing.

- Consultation is open on the **State-wide Bushfire Hazards Overlay Code Amendment** to update the spatial application of the bushfire hazard overlays to reflect recent bushfire hazard mapping, and review the policy contained in each of the overlays. This may address concerns raised by PPSA in relation to urbanisation density in the GARP and impact on bushfire hazards.

The **Future Living Code Amendment** seeks to enhance housing diversity by providing housing options for smaller household types and responding to the ageing demographics of the State's population by providing greater opportunities for ageing

in place and will apply to certain residential areas within the City of Unley, Town of Walkerville, City of Campbelltown, City of Burnside and City of Prospect, and investigations will consider whether it will also extend to other local government areas. This may help to address concerns in the future concerning housing options on farms to accommodate multi-generational living.

Also discussions on the adequacy of **State Planning Policy 8: Primary Industry**, which was last reviewed in May 2019. There is an opportunity for PPSA to consider the effectiveness of this policy; and seek support from the Minister to review this policy (as a statutory instrument) by directing the State Planning Commission to undertake public consultation. This will be referred to the PPSA Planning Taskforce in early 2024 for further consideration.

2024



Save \$100 on early bird registration

ADC early bird registration is available until 12 January 2024. Farmers save \$100+ on full registration including all social functions. Discounts apply for subsequent farmers from the same farm. Find out more at [ADC Registration 2024](#) details.



- Andrew met with Hon Ben Hood and Dr Nicola Centofanti to talk Farmers **Mental Health and Wellbeing**.
- Andrew and Alison met with John Gladigau, director of Little Town Production and creator of a production called 'Kick of ya Boots' this is a musical about celebrating rural life, exploring challenges commonly faced by farming families such as succession planning and demonstrating practical ways that farmers can effectively manage in difficult circumstances. First performed in 2021 by an impressive cast of Loxton locals, has been highly regarded.
- This connection was firstly instigated by a conversation with Adam Smith from Mount Gambier Hay Runners wanting to do a similar thing in the South East. SADA has introduced all the key players for this including Ministers Ben Hood and Nicola Centofanti and is excited to help this idea to grow. If you know anyone or if you are interested in getting involved, reach out.
- Andrew attended the DA AGM and Farmers Forum in Moama. This was a great networking event and pleasing to see the collaboration between SADA and Dairy SA recognised by many outside the state.
- Andrew and Elf met with **Hon David Speirs** to wade through some water allocation planning and water policy issues.
- Andrew and Alison together with Melissa (Dairy SA) met with PIRSA to clear up some reporting on the Farm Business Resilience program that the **Our Farm Our Plan program** is being funded through, have you registered for your session yet?
- Andrew and Alison met with Peter Adamo and Mandy Pacitti from DIAA to discuss the 'reinvigoration' of **Do Dairy**. @dodairy.
- Andrew and Alison met with Paul Verma from **SARDI** to discuss a project opportunity through the Future Drought Fund for a new Genetic study, identifying a cattle mutation for a climate resilient breed, but more to come shortly once the project brief has been completed from SARDI.
- Andrew and Alison then dropped into Struan in Naracoorte to catch up with Megan Willis to further nut out some detail on the **Virtual Fencing trial** and the possibility of tour a Tassie to observe a VR Fencing project that Holter are undertaking.

- Elf met with the incoming Australian **Ambassador to China** with other representatives of the South Australian primary sector. Dairy took the position that China's approach to trade made it too unreliable to create a relationship of ongoing trust to attract substantial amounts of investment from the dairy industry.
- Andrew and Alison attended the Dairy SA South East Christmas get together in Port Mac, and gave an update on SADA policy and effluent, urging all our members 'to get their shit together'! This was then followed by an informative Schnitty with SADA session in Mount Gambier on **Water Allocation Plan**, thanks Graeme Hamilton and Terry Buckley for their foresight and good sound advice on this process. Again we urge all members to reach out with any questions you have on your water allocations.

EPA Effluent Management Plan

If you've received your letter from the EPA, don't hesitate to give Elf a call, so we can assess what the best action is required by you.

- Elf met with the EPA to discuss the EPA's response to industry compliance with EPA expectations and the operation of the Environmental Protection Act. Eight topics were discussed including specific issues on specific farms.
- Elf completed and submitted a second Effluent Management Plan for a SADA Member. This plan is under consideration by the EPA for approval which is expected in the coming week.
- Elf continued to support another member with an Effluent Management Plan for a farm in the South East. This plan was submitted a week prior however, the EPA has insisted on shorter timeframes. An amended plan will be submitted in consultation with the farmer during the next week.
- Elf provided further assistance and information to a farmer who is subject to a EPA inquiry on the farm. SADA has been informed that there will be an increase in the number of farm visits by the EPA in the coming year.
- Elf assisted a farmer with a separate contract issue pertaining to the farmer's business and arrangements regarding the partial sale of some land.
- Elf assisted a farmer with a civil dispute relating to the installation of equipment on the farm. This assistance will hopefully see the dispute be resolved with the supplier without escalating the matter.
- Elf met with Envirotech, an Adelaide based firm, to discuss the future development of methane based capture on farm as well as composting potential for sludge on dairy farms.



National Farm Crime Survey

The Centre for Rural Criminology (UNE) has recently launched the [Australian Farm Crime Survey](https://bit.ly/farmcrimeune), the first of its kind in nearly twenty years. Please see a link to the survey here: <https://bit.ly/farmcrimeune>.



NTI delivers driver safety campaign supporting the dairy industry

One of Australia's first road safety initiatives designed to reduce dairy tanker rollovers has been delivered, with a catalogue of multi-media training resources now complete. The initiative was developed after research revealed dairy tankers were 2.4 times more likely to be involved in a major crash than other freight-carrying heavy vehicles. World-first training resources for [dairy carriers and drivers](#) are now available as a result of the project.



We hope that you've enjoyed these little blast from the past. You can go 'back to the future' on our website and catch up if you've missed any.

This month we've included a report from the South Australian Dairymens Association entitled.

The Future Outlook 1963-64

[Click here](#)