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SADA NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

Dairy levy increase recommended by advisory committee.

The independent Levy Poll Advisory Committee (LPAC) reviewing the dairy service levy has determined an increase in the service levy, is in the best long-term interests of the dairy industry.

The committee's decision included setting the options for the levy poll and recommending a 20% increase in the levy.

In July, the LPAC recommended a poll be conducted of all dairy farmers to determine the future level of the dairy service levy. Following the recommendation, LPAC was required to determine the voting options which will go on the ballot to be voted on in March 2022.

The four (4) levy options to be presented in the levy poll are:

1. no change to the levy (status quo)
2. an increase of 15%
3. an increase of 20%
4. an increase of 25%

The levy option which LPAC recommends is an increase of 20%.

In making its decision LPAC took into consideration many factors including that there has been no change to the levy since 2012, CPI increases in that time,

financial projections of a continuing decline in reserves, future commitments required for the dairy industry to succeed, as well as analysis of the benefits of the levy investment for dairy farmers.

The LPAC has taken into account these insights and data, as well as many views on the dairy service levy from industry stakeholders and farmers.

LPAC Chair, Ron Storey said a 20% increase was "in the best long-term interests of the dairy industry".

"LPAC agreed that while an increase to the levy is recommended, farmers will make the final choice, and therefore an

option of no increase is included on the ballot paper," he said.

"Throughout the process, LPAC heard from many farmers, some of whom advocated for no levy or no increase, and others who supported a larger levy for increased investment in research, development and extension and other dairy industry services to secure their future.

"LPAC has considered these views, and on balance, believes farmers have been provided with a choice in the poll to select from the 'increase' options, or to choose 'no change' to the levy.

"I would like to thank all farmers who contributed and the LPAC members for their dedication and contribution and their commitment to acting in the best long-term interest of the dairy industry."

To view LPAC's full report on determining the Dairy Levy Poll options visit: dairylevyreview.com.au



From recycling to upcycling: A smarter way of dealing with plastic and ag waste.

RMIT University researchers have developed a clean and cost-effective way to upcycle used plastic, transforming it into valuable nanomaterials and high-quality fuel.

Key points

- New tech produces carbon nanotubes and clean liquid fuel from used plastic
- Smart solution for upcycling plastic and agricultural waste simultaneously
- Circular economy approach to help turn two massive waste streams into genuine revenue

Globally only about 20% of waste plastics are recycled. Boosting that figure remains a challenge as recycling plastic cleanly can be expensive and usually produces lower-value products, often making it financially unviable.

The new method from RMIT researchers can produce high-value products from plastic – carbon nanotubes and clean liquid fuel – while simultaneously upcycling agricultural and organic waste.

The team's two-step process, revealed in the *Journal of Environmental Management*, converts organic waste into a carbon-rich and high-value form of charcoal, then uses this as a catalyst to upcycle the plastic.

If you're interested in participating in an Investigation into silage wrap recycling, contact the SADA office on (08) 8293 2399.

Read more about the new method here: <https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/all-news/2021/sep/upcycling-plastic>

Looking to employ seasonal workers?

Approximately 40-60 workers from Kiribati will be available for work opportunities in South Australia from mid-January to the end of March 2022.

The cohort of workers are employed via a labour hire provider and have been completing work on the South Australian citrus harvest.

If you're interested in employing workers during this period and would like to be connected to the labour hire provider, contact:

Stephen Poskett

Email: Stephen.Poskett@sa.gov.au



Regulators ramp up quad bike safety checks

Eighty-four per cent of quad bikes assessed by Australia's consumer law regulators were compliant with the first stage of a new national safety standard that came into force in October last year.

The ACCC and state and territory consumer protection agencies have coordinated national market surveillance to determine whether quad bike suppliers have complied with Stage 1 requirements of the Quad Bike Safety Standard.

Stage 1 requires all new and imported second hand quad bikes sold in Australia be tested for lateral static stability, have a hang tag attached to them showing the angle at which the quad bike tips onto two wheels, and carry a roll over warning label. The owner's manual must include roll over safety information.

Stage 2 came into effect on October 11.

<https://www.accc.gov.au/media-release/regulators-ramp-up-quad-bike-safety>

Did you miss any of our updates? [Register Here](#)

ADPF launches economic report

Australian Dairy Products Federation (ADPF) on 23 September launched the report by Deloitte Access Economics on the Economic and Broader Contribution of the Australian Dairy Processing Industry, highlighting the significant contribution dairy processors make to the Australian economy and regional communities.

ADPF commissioned Deloitte Access Economics to provide the first, singularly-focused comprehensive positioning of the dairy processing industry and its economic contribution and value more broadly across Australia.

View the full report and media release here; <https://adpf.org.au/australian-dairy-processing-industry>.

Highlights from the report include:

- \$15.7 billion generated in revenues p.a.
- 70,158 FTE jobs supported across direct and aligned industries – 56% of them located regionally.
- \$6.1 billion of capital employed and \$383 million capital reinvested p.a.
- \$12 million p.a. invested in R&D
- Reduction in energy use and emissions intensity by 24.5% and 23.5% respectively, in the last three years.

The report can be found on the [ADPF website](#), along with an [infographic](#) that provides a snapshot of the report as well as a short, [animated video](#) and member case-studies .

Last chance to nominate for the SADA board

The South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association (SADA) is encouraging you to consider nominating for the SADA board. There are positions in the South East and Central regions up for election this year.

To nominate, producers must be a SADA member and must submit a nomination form on or before 5pm Friday 22 October, 2021.

SADA chief executive officer Andrew Curtis called on all members to think about putting their name forward.

"Being part of the SADA board is a wonderful opportunity for dairy farmers to contribute to the future of their industry," he said.

"It's also a great opportunity on an individual level to gain an understanding of how the association works in advocating for the dairy industry."

For a nomination form, contact the SADA office on 8293 2399 or email sada@sada.asn.au. Successful candidates will be announced at SADA annual general meeting on 17 November, 2021.

COVID-19 UPDATE - OCTOBER 2021—Level 1 restrictions

- 3 people per 4 square metres (3/4) density for seated activities.
- Must take reasonable steps to maintain 1.5 m physical distancing.
- Contact tracing required (other than in-home health services).
- 1 person per 2 square metres (1/2) density for non-seated activities

For the full [list of authorised workers](#). Please note however that if activities can be postponed, they should be.

Around the grounds

- Elf and Ash briefed PIRSA on the traceability project. PIRSA attended the SADA Offices and spent an hour and a half discussing the technology and being briefed on the smart contract and distributed ledger system being employed on the trial.
- Nick finalised a style guide for SADA's communications and social media. This will be valuable as all communications to both members and the public will have a uniformed 'voice'.
- Nick had discussions with Andrew, Elf and President John Hunt about potential updates to both the SADA and SADA Fresh websites. A range of options will be discussed over the coming weeks both in-house and with Blis Web Agency, who SADA have on retainer for website work.
- Ash and Andrew attended the Urrbrae High School Careers Expo. This was an excellent event with many sponsors from across the agricultural industry educating and inspiring young students about potential career avenues.
- Elf has been working with PIRSA regarding the roll out of the underpass scheme.
- Ash attended the NFF Ag Visa update and had a discussion with Steve Burdett from the Approved Employers Association about the operational aspects and requirements of Phase 1.
- Elf attended a briefing by consortium seeking to develop seaweed in South Australia. A particular seaweed is being proposed for commercial growth in SA which will become an additive to stock feed that has the impact of drastically reducing methane production in cows' digestion. SADA will keep a close watch on developments.
- Elf Attended the Austrade Preparing to Trade in the UK seminar. This seminar was prepared by Austrade to introduce Australian, and potential Australian exporters to the challenges and opportunities that are available in post Brexit and FTA UK.
- Elf attended the Dairy Code Review Reference Group. The Dairy Industry Code is currently being reviewed by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, as required by the Code. This committee has met periodically, and this was final meeting of the committee. An issues paper is now in restricted circulation and farmer groups are expected to make final submissions.
- Ash met with Irina from the Department of Innovation and Skills to talk about the Gap analysis project and the requirements from the SA Dairy Workforce Committee in terms of support for the project.
- John H, Rick and Andrew attended a National Council virtual meeting to discuss the activities and recommendations of the independent committee reviewing the dairy service levy, the Levy Poll Advisory Committee. LPAC has determined an increase in the service levy is in the best long-term interests of the dairy industry. Their decision included setting the options for the levy poll and recommending a 20% increase in the levy.
- Elf made a number of farm visits across the Fleurieu Peninsula talking to farmers about a number of issues which impact their respective businesses.
- Andrew and the SADA team commence planning for Lucindale Field Days in March next year.



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Good people to know.

WFI, proud alliance partner of the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association

