



**SA Dairyfarmers'  
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21D013

11 March 20201

The Hon David Basham MP  
Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
GPO Box 1671, Adelaide SA 5001  
Per: [Minister.Basham@sa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Basham@sa.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

**Re: Cattle Underpasses**

As you're doubtlessly aware the matter of underpasses for the dairy industry has been a consideration of significant importance to a number of dairy businesses in South Australia in recent years.

Consequently, SADA has sponsored a number of applications to the South Australian Government's Regional Grants funds over three years. The first two applications were for specific grants and the final application last year, (attached to this correspondence), was for the strategic round in 2020.

None of these applications have been successful, and on each occasion, feedback was unhelpful as to why the applications were unsuccessful.

Consequently, SADA now seeks to raise this with you as the Minister directly as a worthy project with aligns with the South Australian Government's Growth State Plan as well as the South Australian Government's endorsed Dairy Industry Action Plan 2019 – 2024.

**The South Australian Dairy Industry Action Plan 2019 – 2024**

In March 2019 the your predecessor the Minister Whetstone endorsed and launched the South Australian Dairy Industry Action Plan 2019 – 2024 noting in the forward of the plan:

*This Action Plan is a call to arms to all participants in the supply chain to work together towards a common goal and to grow the dairy industry from the 500 million litres of milk produced by our farmers.*

The plan is the product of 2 years of collaborative work across the South Australian dairy industry and was created by SADA with the express intention of building upon the already excellent status of the SA dairy product. The plan has a commitment to improving systems and efficiencies:

*As a jurisdiction we must be able to fold efficiencies into profits – this will provide for business performance and a stronger defence against rising problems and challenges.*

This proposed project is consistent with the Plan and the Minister's endorsement.

As you will note from the attached application the bid received strong endorsement from Local Councils including one council which offered to reseal the road surface after installation of the underpass.



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SADA urges the South Australian Government to consider the proposal for the strategic fund as a proposal that has substantial merit even if the vehicle for delivery is not through the regional development fund.

These underpasses, for all of the reasons articulated in the attached application to the Regional Growth Fund are both supported by SADA and by the farmers who were indicating a clear preparedness to commit matching funding to the proposal.

As the board of the fund appears to have turned a dismissive eye upon these important items of infrastructure, I now appeal to the South Australian Government to look upon the proposal with a more benevolent disposition for all of the reasons articulated to the Regional Growth Fund with the additional consideration of road safety being an important, non-economic factor for the SA Government to contemplate.

The attached proposal makes clear that there is a direct link between dairy jobs and this form of infrastructure. SADA suggests that support for a proposal of this nature is more an investment in jobs than it is just a spend on infrastructure.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to receive a phone call to discuss the matter further.

Yours faithfully,

John Hunt.