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Media Release

SADA Rates SA Political Parties

The South Australian Dairyfarmers Association has pronounced judgement on the major party's responses to the major issues affecting dairy farmers prior to the next SA election.

We sent out letters discussing areas that concerned SADA to Labor, Liberal, SA Best and the Australian Conservatives. All parties have now responded and those responses have been rated as shown below.

Areas that the parties were asked to answer were:

- Support of ACCC's interim report into the dairy industry
- Transport issues and support for the 90-day infrastructure plan
- Structure and delivery of NRM (Natural Resource Management) in the SA
- Planning, Mining and Gas
- Energy and Energy Pricing
- R&D and protection of PIRSA as a standalone department with the proper funding of SARDI.

Parties were also rated on their expected capacity to deliver after the next South Australian election.

	Capacity to Deliver	ACCC	Transport	NRM	Planning Mining and Gas	Energy	Research and Development	Total
Labor	5	2	4	1	2	3	3	20
SA Best	1	5	3	2	4	2	4	21
Liberals	5	3	3	3	3	3	4	24
Aust Conserv.	0	5	5	2	4	4	5	25

The Australian Conservatives rated with the highest score which was not surprising considering the familiarity that Rob Brokenshire MLC has with the rural issues facing the South Australian Dairy Industry. The Liberals also performed well with energy policy holding them back from sharing top spot. This reflected a considerable effort by the Liberals to communicate with SADA over the past 6 months.

Labor and SA Best fared the worst. Labor was particularly marked down for their dogged refusal to change the NRM system which through a policy of centralisation under a Labor Government has fundamentally caused the NRM to lose its way. SA Best's response to energy also scored low simply because a mere commitment to talk about the energy needs of farmers does not reflect a considered policy position.



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Quotes attributable to Andrew Curtis CEO of SADA

“In formulating its areas of concern SADA chose to concentrate on matters the state government can influence. There are many other issues that affect dairy farmers in South Australia that were not listed in the questionnaire because they were largely out of the control of SA. These topics however, are areas where state government has influence.”

“The knowledge of people like Rob Brokenshire (AC) and David Basham (Lib and former SADA President), both of whom have a long history in the sector, shone through in the responses.”

“We also urge non-dairy SA citizens to remember that SA’s primary sector and particularly dairy industry is the calcium in the state’s bones. We urge voters to support the policies that make SA stand out from the pack.”

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