

JOURNAL

The official publication of the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association Inc.

August 2026

Vol. 68 #2



From the President

Robert Brokenshire

It was wonderful to celebrate the achievements of our South Australian dairy industry at the [2026 South Australian Dairy Awards](#).

Congratulations to our award recipients: **James Hurrell**, Young Dairy Farmer of the Year; **Wes and Rita Hurrell**, Innovative Farmer of the Year; **Grant and Deb Jolley**, Best Relationship with a Processor; and **James Mann and the team at Donovan's Dairying**, winners of the Foodland Sustainability Award.

These awards recognise more than individual achievement. They highlight the innovation, leadership, sustainability and strong partnerships that continue to drive our industry forward.

A special congratulations to James Mann and the Donovan's Dairying team, whose work in pasture management, water efficiency, renewable energy and nutrient recycling demonstrates that sustainability and productivity can go hand in hand.

As SADA celebrates 90 years, it is particularly encouraging to see the next generation and our established dairy businesses leading with confidence and looking towards the future.

One of the most important roles SADA plays is ensuring the voice of South Australian dairy farmers is heard where decisions are made. Our recent engagement at Parliament House was a great success, with **more than 20 Members of Parliament attending**, particular thanks goes to Minister Bourke and Shadow Minister Centofanti, providing an excellent opportunity to showcase our industry, build relationships and discuss the issues that matter to dairy farmers.

These conversations are an important part of SADA's ongoing advocacy. We are committed to working constructively across Parliament to ensure decision-makers understand the contribution of dairy to South Australia's regional communities, food security and economy.

From water security and workforce to biosecurity, animal welfare, input costs and market development, SADA will continue to put dairy farmers at the table and advocate for practical policies that support a strong, sustainable and resilient South Australian dairy industry.

If you have experienced a reduction in your milk payment, or have concerns about changes to your processor payments, please contact the SADA office. Your feedback will help us understand the impact across the industry and inform our advocacy with processors and government.

Please call SADA to discuss your concerns.

I'm pleased to be part of a three-part series with *The Advertiser*, [For Farmers' Sale](#), giving readers a genuine insight into life on a South Australian dairy farm.

The first instalment takes readers behind the scenes at our family farm, from the early 2.30am starts and the realities of caring for our cows, to the technology and passion that underpin modern dairy farming.

It is a great opportunity to help share the story of our farmers, showcase the dedication behind every litre of milk, and build a stronger understanding of dairy and life on the land with the wider South Australian community.

Milk Payment Support Changes

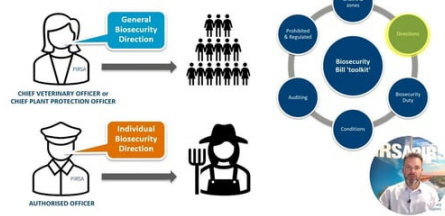
SADA is aware that temporary milk payment support measures introduced earlier this year are now ending for some processors, while other arrangements remain in place. With farm input costs continuing to place pressure on dairy businesses, SADA is closely monitoring the impact of these changes on South Australian farmers.

We'll be in touch . . . Over the next couple of weeks, the SADA team will be giving members a call to check that your membership details are up to date. If you have changed milk processors, changed your business details, or had any other significant changes over the past 12 months, please let us know when we call. Keeping your details current allows us to provide you with the best possible service.

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

Biosecurity directions



SADA at the Table on Biosecurity Reform

SADA continues to ensure the voice of South Australian dairy farmers is represented in important policy and regulatory discussions.

On 3 August, SADA CEO Andrew Curtis participated in the Biosecurity Act Implementation Stakeholder Advisory Group, providing industry input into the next stage of South Australia's new Biosecurity Act. The meeting focused on key areas including the General Biosecurity Duty, accreditation and certification, identification and traceability, and emergency response powers. SADA's involvement ensures that the practical realities of biosecurity on dairy farms are considered as the legislation and supporting processes are developed. Importantly, discussions included how the General Biosecurity Duty will work in practice, recognition of existing industry accreditation schemes, the role of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS), and how control orders may operate during an emergency response. This is the type of behind-the-scenes advocacy SADA is known for — being at the table, raising the issues that matter to dairy farmers and working to ensure new policies and legislation are practical, workable and fair for our industry.



Dairy Industry Code Review SADA Advocacy in Action

SADA continues to advocate strongly for South Australian dairy farmers through the review of the national Dairy Industry Code of Conduct.

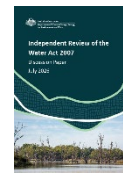
SADA has considered the proposed package of eight recommendations and supports the changes in principle, while calling for strong safeguards around domestic extraordinary events to ensure ordinary commercial risks are not shifted from processors to farmers. Importantly, proposed improvements to minimum-price transparency and the introduction of multi-party mediation and arbitration could strengthen farmers' ability to understand milk pricing and collectively address disputes with processors. SADA will continue to engage in the implementation process and advocate for strong, practical protections for dairy farmers.



Biodiversity Act – Consultation

Have your say on the draft regulations supporting the **Biodiversity Act 2025**, including the establishment and operation of four key committees: Biodiversity Council, Clearance Assessment Committee, Aboriginal Biodiversity Committee, Scientific Committee. The committees will play an important role in implementing the Act, including advising on and approving key policies, regulations and guidelines.

Consultation closes 15 September 2026.



SADA Advocating for Dairy Water Security

SADA is continuing to advocate for the interests of South Australian dairy farmers through the national review of the **Water Act 2007**. SADA recently participated in a Water Act Review roundtable with Independent Reviewer Geoff Leeper and representatives from industry, environmental, research and natural resource management organisations. For dairy, the key issue remains security and reliability of water access. The Review is considering how water planning should respond to climate change, including potential changes to water resource plans and the environmentally sustainable level of take (ESLT). SADA will be closely watching these discussions to ensure that any changes do not unfairly shift climate and reliability risks onto farmers or undermine access to water needed for food production. SADA will continue to represent South Australian dairy farmers throughout the Review and advocate for secure, reliable and sustainable water access, supported by sound science, transparent decision-making and meaningful consideration of the social and economic impacts on regional communities.



Farmsafe Research Program

Have Your Say FarmSafe Australia is seeking farmer feedback through a short, anonymous 10-question survey to help improve farm safety resources. Your input will help ensure future resources are practical, relevant and effective for Australian agriculture.

[Take a few minutes to complete the survey and help shape the future of farm safety.](#)



The change, introduced through Ministerial Direction 119 on 25 July 2026, has raised concerns across the dairy industry, particularly as farmers enter the busy spring calving period.

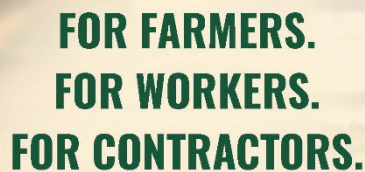
For dairy farms, delays can place additional pressure on farmers, families and existing staff, increasing workloads and fatigue at an already demanding time of year.

If you have a skilled worker whose visa application has been affected by the recent changes, please contact the SADA office and let us know about your experience. Your feedback will help us understand the impact on South Australian dairy farms and strengthen our advocacy with government.



**Australian
Dairy Farmers**

ADF Media Release: Tuesday 25 August - Dairy calls for urgent visa priority fix.



Australia's Agriculture Jobs & Networking App

-  **Find Workers**
Post jobs and connect with agricultural workers.
-  **Find Jobs**
Discover agricultural jobs across Australia.
-  **Find Contractors**
Search contractors and agricultural services.



FIND MY CREW

www.findmycrew.com.au

Farmers and agricultural businesses can advertise jobs and browse worker profiles, while workers and contractors can find opportunities and showcase their experience.

Find My Crew is free to download and use.



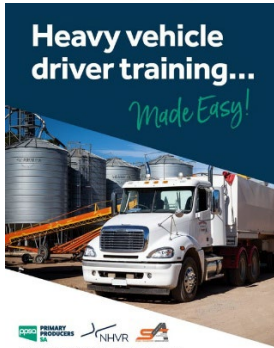
The short survey will help inform discussions with Government and Australian Dairy Farmers about the challenges farmers are experiencing.

Complete the Dairy Workforce Survey

Responses are confidential and will only be reported as aggregated data. Your input will help strengthen workforce planning for the dairy 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**



New PPSA project to boost truck driving skills

You've heard of the Farming Simulator video game ... but what about trucking simulator?

Primary Producers SA and its commodity group members, including SADA, have partnered with the South Australian Road Transport Association (SARTA) to upskill producers, their family members and employees who drive or want to drive trucks to learn and improve their defensive driving skills.

The project will see PPSA utilise SARTA's Heavy Vehicle Simulator at a series of workshops across SA. The \$500,000 simulator mimics real-world scenarios, helping drivers to improve their skills in negotiating different challenges on the road, including other traffic, pedestrians, reversing, loading and unloading, and different weather conditions.

Producers are encouraged to register their interest in attending a workshop on the PPSA website:

<https://ppsa.org.au/projects/#safety>

The project is made possible through funding from the Australian Government's Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative, which is administered by the [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator](#).



Heavy Vehicle National Law Changes

Changes to the **Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL)** commenced on **1 August 2026**, following a national review of heavy vehicle accreditation and safety requirements. The reforms update accreditation standards, safety management requirements and alternative compliance arrangements. The NHVR has resources available to help operators understand and meet the new requirements.

Heavy vehicle operators are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the changes and access the latest NHVR guidance.

Read the Amendment Act here: [Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Act 2025](#)

National Farmers Federation

Minimum tax on discretionary trusts

July 2026

The NFF welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Treasury's

consultation regarding the proposed introduction of a 30 per cent minimum tax on discretionary trusts from 1 July 2028. The NFF recognises the Government's objective of improving the fairness and integrity of Australia's tax system. We strongly welcome the Government's recognition that discretionary trusts play a legitimate and important role within Australian agriculture and that primary production income will be exempt from the proposed minimum tax. The NFF's full submission can be found [here](#).



Congratulations to Nicholas Mignanelli on Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship –

SADA congratulates dairy producer **Nick Mignanelli** on receiving the 2026 Agricultural Bureau of SA Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship, supported by the Department for Environment and Water. The scholarship will support an international study tour exploring dairy production and nutrient recycling, with learnings to be shared across South Australia's dairy industry.

Congratulations Nick, we look forward to seeing the insights you bring home!



Farmer Wants A Wife Casting Call

Are you a single farmer looking for love? Farmer Wants A Wife is seeking genuine, down-to-earth farmers for the upcoming series.

Know someone who could be a great match? Recommendations and introductions are welcome!

👉 [Applications now open](#)

FREE DAIRY EFFLUENT NUTRIENT TESTING

Do you know the nutrient value of your dairy effluent?

SADA is seeking Expressions of Interest from dairy producers in the Murrumbidgee region to take part in a free effluent sampling program.

PARTICIPATING DAIRY FARMERS WILL RECEIVE:

- Free collection (by SADA) and sampling of liquid and solid dairy effluent
- Laboratory testing for Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K)
- A personalised report outlining the nutrient value of your effluent
- Practical guidance on using your results to improve nutrient management and fertiliser decisions

Project findings will contribute to a regional case study demonstrating the value of effluent testing. Individual farm results will remain confidential and will only be reported in grouped or anonymous form.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

INTERESTED? EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST TODAY!
Contact SADA to register your interest or find out more.

