

JOURNAL

The official publication of the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association Inc.

January 2026

Vol. 67 #7

We kick off this year celebrating 90 years of SADA. Officially, this milestone reflects nine decades of strong advocacy for South Australian dairy farmers. With more than [50 years of journals](#), we'll be celebrating key moments throughout the year — keep an eye out for special archival highlights as we revisit the milestones that have shaped our industry.



From the President

Robert Brokenshire

A little over a week ago, the Mount Compass fires were a stark and timely reminder, and like many in our community, I watched conditions change rapidly and unpredictably. It was a stark and timely reminder of how quickly a normal day can turn into a crisis, particularly for those of us living and working in high-risk bushfire areas.

If there is one message I want to reinforce, it is this: please make sure your **bushfire plan and power outage plan are current, practical, and sitting somewhere obvious – on the kitchen cupboard, not buried in a drawer or saved on a phone that may not have power.** When decisions need to be made quickly, clarity and preparation matter.

The Fleurieu Peninsula blaze was battled by an extraordinary number of volunteer firefighters and support crews, many of whom left their own

properties, families, and businesses to protect others. Several structures were lost, hundreds of hectares burned, and livestock impacts are still being assessed. While the scale of the response was immense, what stood out most to me was the way the local community came together.

Neighbours checked on neighbours. People opened their gates, their sheds, and their homes. Help was offered without hesitation to move stock, provide water, meals, shelter, and reassurance. As dairy farmers, we often talk about resilience – but seeing it in action, under pressure, was genuinely humbling. The priority for everyone was the same: **ensuring our girls were safe and everyone got through the event.**

These moments remind us why strong rural communities matter and why preparation is not optional. Fires, power

outages, extreme weather and biosecurity threats are not abstract risks – they are realities we continue to face. Having plans in place, knowing who to call, and understanding what you will do in the first critical hours can make an enormous difference.

I also want to acknowledge the incredible work of the CFS volunteers, emergency services, and supporting agencies who worked tirelessly under challenging conditions. Their commitment protects lives, livelihoods, and communities across South Australia.

As we move through the remainder of summer, I encourage all members to take a moment to review your emergency plans, talk them through with your family and staff, and make sure everyone knows their role. Preparation is one of the most practical ways we can look after each other.

Stay safe, stay informed, and thank you, as always, for the strength and solidarity this industry continues to show.

Celebrating
90 YEARS OF SADA

Save the Date
FRIDAY MAY 15

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

PIRSA

Biosecurity Act 2025 Baseline Biosecurity Attitudinal Survey Invitation.

As part of its work to prepare for and implement the new *Biosecurity Act 2025*, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is inviting South Australian producers and the wider community to share their views on biosecurity. The survey seeks to better understand awareness, perceptions and behaviours relating to biosecurity across the state. Your feedback will help build a strong foundation for South Australia's biosecurity and support long term outcomes for our economy, environment, and community. We have extended the closing date for the survey. If you have not yet provided your feedback, we invite you to take part by completing the survey.

Survey Link



\$20 million grant program for River Murray communities

South Australia's River Murray communities are set to benefit from a \$20 million grant program.

The funding will ensure that as water is vitally recovered under the Murray–Darling Basin Plan, communities along the river system continue to thrive.

[FULL MEDIA RELEASE HERE](#)

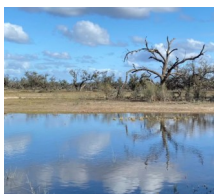
The program's first round offers two types of grants:

1. Investment Feasibility grants that support early-stage work such as feasibility studies and planning to develop investment-ready proposals with the intent to apply for implementation funding in round 2.
2. Investment Ready grants fund projects that are shovel-ready economic opportunities in eligible South Australian River Murray communities.

Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) is leading the program's delivery on behalf of the Government of South Australia. For Sustainable Communities Program grant guidelines, eligibility and application details, [visit the PIRSA website](#).

Applications close on Tuesday 31 March 2026 at 5pm.

Program Page



SA Constraints Measures Community Infrastructure Investigation

What is being decided?

To further enhance environmental outcomes and improve community resilience to River Murray high flows, the South Australia Constraints Measures project is seeking community input to help develop future project proposals that balance environmental, social and economic outcomes, while reflecting the needs and priorities of communities and businesses.

We are asking the community to:

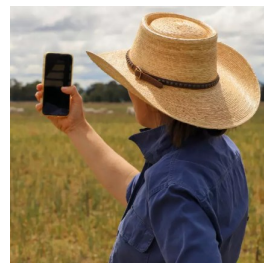
1. Identify local opportunities that would benefit from infrastructure upgrades or impediment removal.
2. Provide feedback on what information and tools would be useful in self-managing the effects of high flows on their land or business.
3. Highlight locations they know to be impacted by high flows up to 80 GL/day.

How to get involved

Find out more by reading the [consultation guide](#). Use the [interactive map](#) to drop a pin and comment (with optional photo) to identify either of the following:

- in-scope opportunities within your local area for infrastructure upgrades or impediment removal
- locations impacted by high flows up to 80 GL/per day.

Complete the [online survey](#) to provide feedback on potential SA Constraints Measures project works.



Federal Government Delays Third Round of On-Farm Connectivity Grants

The federal government has yet to confirm when the third round of the popular **On-Farm Connectivity Program** will open. Initially advertised as opening in late 2025, the Office of the Minister for Communications, Anika Wells, now indicates applications are expected in "mid-2026."

A spokesperson for the department confirmed, "Guidelines for round three are currently being finalised with applications expected to open in mid-2026." However, no exact date has been provided, and online information still lists late 2025 or the second quarter of 2026.



Investment crucial to keep SA competitive

South Australia likes to think big. We talk about leading in defence technology, space, major events and advanced manufacturing.

But a truly future-ready economy can't treat agriculture as yesterday's story. We must invest in the science that underpins premium food and fibre—industries that anchor regional jobs, export earnings and food security.



2026 Kicks Off with Safer Heavy Vehicle Guidance

The **2026 Master Code** has been launched – a practical, industry-driven guide designed to support safer heavy vehicle operations. Developed with input from across the sector, it helps dairy farmers, transport operators, and supply-chain participants better understand and manage safety risks on a daily basis. The Code is

published alongside practical guidance materials, and we'll continue working with industry to develop further resources. You can view the 2026 Master Code on our website [\[here\]](#).

Implementation of the **Heavy Vehicle National Law reforms** is also a key focus this quarter. SADA is working closely with the National Transport Commission to finalise standards and guidance that will give clear, practical direction for dairy businesses. With reforms expected mid-year, we'll provide timely guidance and support to ensure farmers and transport operators are ready.



Career Pathways for Agricultural Trades Next steps

A project to develop an Agricultural Trade Qualification has received approval from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations for commencement in 2026. This qualification will be designed for delivery via apprenticeship.

Qualification development—A Training Package Product Development project to create a nationally recognised Ag Trade qualification.

Recommendations for an agricultural trade pathway have been made by the [Agricultural Workforce Working Group, Opens in new tab*](#), the National Agricultural Labour Advisory Committee in the [National Agriculture Workforce Strategy, Opens in new tab](#), and the National Farmers' Federation in their [2030 Roadmap, Opens in new tab](#).



Get your Power Outage Plan ready

At SA Power Networks, the safety of our people and the community is our highest priority. Most weather-related power outages are caused by the prevailing conditions such as wind, lightning, or storms. But at times, to help keep communities safe during periods of high bushfire risk, we also need to take pre-emptive safety steps. While these measures can sometimes affect your power supply, they are critical to helping protect lives and property during high bushfire risk times.

Simple steps to help keep you connected



As summer continues, we've been responding to storms, floods, and fires - and it's important to make sure you're ready too. Sometimes severe weather can affect our network and other infrastructure like electricity, so being prepared will help you stay connected and informed.

Here are a few simple steps you can take:

- Charge devices and keep a power bank ready.
- Enable Wi-Fi calling on your mobile so you can call for help.
- Know where your local payphone is for free calls and Wi-Fi.

Check your details are up-to-date in the My Telstra App, so we can let you know you're eligible for disaster support.

Extra 100GB of data

If you are on a monthly mobile plan, you will automatically receive 100GB of extra data if you are in an affected area for use within 30 days in Australia. If you are eligible you will receive a text message informing you extra data has been added.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Curious about drones and your land? Join this hands-on, one-day workshop to learn how to fly drones safely, plan survey flights, and capture aerial imagery to support your land management decisions. You'll see how drone surveys can reveal kangaroo activity as well as other species on your property. No prior experience is needed, just bring your curiosity (and your drone if you have one)! Morning tea and lunch are provided.



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 up-to-date and relevant information affecting your business. [JOIN NOW](#)



Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board

2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan

Consultation open
12 January 2026 until 15 March 2026

\$5,000 on-farm drought infrastructure rebate scheme

Apply now for rebates of up to 75%, to a max of \$5,000 (excl GST)

Final Call regarding On-farm Drought Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.

Applications close 31 January 2026.

IN FOCUS

E-News - January 2026

RURAL BUSINESS SUPPORT
RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SA/NT

AgriFuture's **grow** AG. | AgriFuture's **evoke** AG.

Newsletter
January 2026

RBS Newsletter January 2026

Take a trip down memory lane and check out all our Member Newsletters — back when they were called Journals — on our website.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DAIRY FARMERS' JOURNAL

ISSN 0049-1446 VOL. 33 NO. 4 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1991

NATIONAL DAIRY INDUSTRY UNITED

In Ballarat on February 19, 1991 the representatives of the Australian Dairy Industry agreed on a united approach to a replacement scheme for the Kain Plan which ends on June 30 1992. Farmers, processors, Australian Dairy Corporation, Dairy Research and Development Corporation, Conference of Australian Milk Authorities and industry administrators met in a think tank situation for 2 days with the goal of a united approach to future national marketing arrangements.

There was unanimous agreement to commitment to the proposed arrangements from everyone present. It was also agreed that the broad representative group reconvenes in November 1991 to confirm progress made towards securing the proposed arrangements.

The proposed arrangements are supported by the following objectives of the Dairy Industry:

- National Milk Levy with a ceiling of 45 cents per kg butterfat or its equivalent (no 50% of world price as previously legislated).
- Maintain current system of market support payments and levy rate.
- Continue underwriting.
- Remove Comfort Clause.
- Implementation of Section 38 type legislation in all States.
- Ongoing scheme - no sunset clause.
- Maintain cheese tariff quota.

B. MARKET MILK

Section 38 type legislation in each State to regulate the farmgate price is the best way to protect the consumer.

It was agreed that the Australian dairy industry had to become proactive on the world scene to generate profits. It had to strengthen its value to Australia and in doing these provide natural defence to imports.

Continuous supplier of High Quality Milk

It is our industry, let's control it. Governments want industries such as ours to look after ourselves. Why not grasp the opportunity?

What Are Some Of The Problems?

As the newcomers to the SADA fold I see several key issues that are hindering our profitability, indeed very existence.

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ISSN 0049-1446 VOL. 30 Nos. 3&4 NOVEMBER - FEBRUARY 1989

IN THIS ISSUE: RESEARCH NEWS, RYE GRASS TRIALS, NEW REGULAR FEATURES

Founded 1935

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE FUTURE

The future for the dairy industry in South Australia will be the product of the efforts of the dairy industry. The same is true of the national industry. There is no simple solution, or set of solutions, that will solve the array of problems confronting the industry. There is only one certainty about the dairy industry: given the prevailing attitudes of politicians and bureaucrats, and that is ONLY the dairy industry will solve its problems.

How can it be done? The sense of pessimism that I have felt in dairyfarmers since I joined the industry on November 14 1988 is laced with tired emotions, a sense of *deja vu* and resignation.

It need not be so.

Indeed, it MUST NOT be so.

As a unit the dairyfarmers in this State need to get their house in order as an urgent prime priority. Having unified as a group, with clearly established goals, we need to assert ourselves in the industry.

This can only be achieved if dairyfarmers shake off the rumours, resist the mystic fears and to a person get a true grasp of reality - that is to clearly understand where the industry is, at present. Having done this "stocktake" the question must be asked - AND ANSWERED - Where do we as dairyfarmers want to go? We will then have our goals and we can then set out to achieve them.

Let us use our potential to form the industry we want. Let us frankly, forcefully put our views to all beyond the farmgate suffering no delaying tactics and no dismissal. Determination, unity and participation are key ingredients to success.

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ISSN 0818-7169

A PICTURE IS WORTH A ...

There are several reasons why I chose this picture for the cover of the Journal this month.

Frank and myself enjoyed great hospitality over an afternoon tea of fresh scones and cream.

John and Anita Mignaneli have, over many years, achieved considerable success with their lives and dairy business. These difficult times are impacting on all farmers and their families. Needless to say the future milk prices were the major item for discussion. We continue to face the challenges together. We are "family".

It represents one of my greatest concerns about the future. That we as an Association (SADA and ADFT) must keep contact with our members. All around us there are strong "economic rationalist" arguments to "centralise power" with only scant say by the very industry members who are paying the bill. It is not just the Association but also, the Companies, the Dairy Service Corporations, Financial Institutions etc.

There are smart ways we can efficiently keep a productive network operating and we are working on them.

Frank Beauchamp, General President - SADA, enjoys the hospitality of John & Anita Mignaneli on a farm visit.

Upcoming Events can be registered on our Website, send through your event details on our online [registration form](#)

Good people to know.
1300 934 934

Est 1936

Every sale supports SA dairy farmers

DO DAIRY Support SA