

JOURNAL

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From the President

Robert Brokenshire

March has highlighted both the challenges and opportunities facing South Australian dairy farmers, with rising input costs continuing to bite and a decisive state election result reshaping the landscape in which we operate.

The re-election of Peter Malinauskas and the **Labor Government** with a strengthened majority provides a level of stability and certainty. For our industry, that creates an opportunity to work constructively with government on key priorities—water security, energy, workforce and regional infrastructure.

At the same time, the election result reflects a broader message from regional communities. Cost of living pressures, rising input costs and the strain on primary production are front of mind—not just for farmers, but across the supply chain. It reinforces the importance of ensuring agriculture, and dairy in particular, **remains a priority in policy discussions.**

On farm, the reality is clear. Input costs

continue to tighten margins, and feed is a major concern this season. **Corn prices** climbing beyond \$650 per tonne have pushed many farmers to reconsider its place in the ration. At those levels, it becomes incredibly difficult to justify, and we are seeing a shift back to alternative grains such as wheat and barley.

These decisions are not without compromise. While alternatives can fill the gap, they don't always deliver the same energy or production outcomes. Combined with ongoing pressure from **fuel, fertiliser and water**, many businesses are navigating one of the most challenging cost environments in recent memory.

Beyond the farm gate, SADA has continued to advocate strongly on issues that protect the integrity and future of our industry. This includes the ongoing push for **truth in labelling** of dairy products. Consumers deserve clarity, and dairy farmers deserve a fair and level playing field when it comes to how products are marketed.

Last week we wrote to Don Farrell regarding the proposed **Australia–European Union Free Trade Agreement**, reinforcing the importance of securing outcomes that protect and enhance market access for Australian dairy while safeguarding the use of common product names and ensuring a fair competitive environment for our producers.

With a strong state government now in place, SADA will continue to ensure the voice of South Australian dairy farmers is heard—clearly and consistently. Our focus remains on practical outcomes that support farm profitability, sustainability and long-term confidence in the industry.

I encourage all members to **stay engaged** and continue sharing your insights. Your experiences are critical in shaping our advocacy and ensuring we are representing the real challenges—and opportunities—facing dairy farmers today.

Despite the headwinds, our industry remains innovative and forward-looking. That strength will continue to drive us through the months ahead.

Celebrating
90 YEARS
OF SADA

FRIDAY MAY 15
CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS



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



EUFTA - worse than a missed opportunity

MEDIA RELEASE | 24 March 2026

Dairy sidelined in EU trade deal: The South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association (SADA) has expressed strong concern and disappointment at the outcomes of the newly concluded Australia–European Union Free Trade Agreement, warning that it fails to deliver meaningful benefits for Australian dairy farmers.



Fuel and Fertiliser Supply Disruption.

SADA members should be aware of emerging disruptions to fuel and

fertiliser supply chains linked to ongoing instability in the Middle East. While national fuel supplies remain adequate overall, there are increasing reports of shortages and price spikes in regional areas, particularly affecting independent fuel distributors that rely on the spot market.



Farmsafe Australia

Safer Farmers Ambassadors Network

Safer Farmers Ambassadors Network is a selective leadership development program for farmers who want to strengthen their voice and help lead positive change across Australian agriculture. Applications Close: 12 April 2026—[APPLY NOW](#)



Cautious dairy commodity price recovery amid heavy global supply

Dairy commodity prices have rallied this quarter – particularly for Australian and New Zealand origin product – despite the world's milk supply continuing to grow and

outpace demand, Rabobank says in newly-released research.

In its **Q1 Global Dairy Quarterly** report, the specialist agribusiness bank says overall global dairy prices have shown signs of recovery in recent months, with strong consecutive increases seen in Global Dairy Trade (GDT) auctions lifting sentiment in the sector.

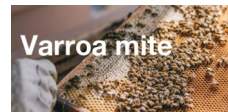
However, the report, by the bank's RaboResearch division, notes that global dairy markets continue to be well supplied, with strong milk production growth across all the world's major dairy-exporting regions except Australia.

This global supply growth has been supported by relatively low livestock feed prices, which have encouraged production and kept milk supply levels elevated worldwide, RaboResearch says.

And current supply data does not yet indicate that the recent upward move in dairy markets is “structurally stable”, the report cautions.

Added to this, says RaboResearch senior dairy analyst Michael Harvey, geopolitical instability – particularly the recent conflict with Iran, but also ongoing tensions in other regions – could “quickly and temporarily disrupt global trade routes and import demand”.

“As the Middle East is an important market for milk powders, fat-filled powders and evaporated milk, the dairy market will follow the evolving situation in Iran and possible trade disruptions closely,” he said. “At the current time, it remains highly volatile and difficult to predict what will happen.” - [More here](#)



Biosecurity Notice

20 March 2026

Presently there are 44 confirmed apiaries involving 37 beekeepers with positive varroa detections.

There are a further 10 detections which are deemed ‘suspected’ in which we are waiting for samples to be submitted/collected. All of these sites are additional apiaries connected to existing positive confirmations.



All industries captured by SA's new labour hire licensing laws

All labour hire providers must now become licensed under changes to South Australia's labour hire licensing laws.

- Providers that must be licensed currently need to maintain their licence and legal obligations.
- Remaining labour hire providers have to undertake requirements and become licensed by 29 July 2026. Consumer and Business Services also recommends applicants allow at least weeks for licensing application to be processed.
- Interstate providers operating in South Australia must also become licensed in South Australia.

Labour hire users (hosts) must ensure they only use providers who are licensed by the required dates.

See the legal requirements on the [Consumer and Business Services \(CBS\) website](#).

If, after reading the changes, you have questions, contact CBS on 131 882 or email occupational@sa.gov.au



Applications Open

South Australian Drought Loan Scheme

SADA has expressed concern that this program is not available statewide. It is available in the LMRIA region, Contact SADA if you'd like to discuss further.

Now that we are through the election we will discuss this program further with the government.

To find out more information about the Scheme and how to apply, visit the [South Australia Loan Scheme website](#).



Good people to know.
1300 934 934



AgriFutures Australia to support

National Food Supply Chain Assessment

AgriFutures Australia has welcomed the Australian Government’s announcement of a National Food Supply Chain Assessment, which the Research and Development Corporation will fund and support as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen Australia’s food security.—[More here](#)



Dairy Manufacturing Webinar Program YouTube Channel is changing

The webinar recordings from the Manufacturing Webinar Program are being moved to a new YouTube channel. This will improve how these are shared. To access the many hours of expert presentations on optimising dairy manufacturing processes and steps for improving market access.



SA’s first statewide climate risk assessment. South Australia’s 2024 Statewide Climate Change Risk and Opportunity Assessment was recently released,

which takes a whole-of-state view of climate risks and opportunities across nature, infrastructure, the economy and communities, looking ahead to 2030, 2050 and 2090 under different global emissions scenarios. The Risk Assessment is the first to consolidate our current understanding of the state’s climate change impacts, risks, and opportunities to enable informed climate change mitigation and adaptation action by governments, business, individuals, and research organisations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEMBER UPDATE

THE FARM SMARTER PROGRAM 2026

Topic 2: Efficient Effluent Management

April 20 & 23



Farm Smarter Topic 2 Workshops

Topic 2 - Efficient Effluent Management

About the session

Efficient effluent management is central to farmers’ general environmental duty. This session will explore how responsible effluent practices can both protect and enhance soil and water resources while contributing to climate outcomes. Farmers will learn practical strategies to improve on-farm effluent systems and adopt technologies to enable nutrient recycling and methane capture, and to support productivity gains, environmental stewardship and long-term farm sustainability.

LANDSCAPE This project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the ClimateSmart Agriculture Program.



Coming up in April across the Dairy Australia Diary in SA.

Feeding Pastures for Profit - South East & Central SA.
Barossa/Mid North Discussion Group - Wed, 29 April.

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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](#)



Tickets On Sale Now

Going Fast!

SADA's 90-Year Gala Dinner tickets are now live and selling quickly.

Don't miss your chance to be part of this milestone event. After marking 90 years of strong advocacy, leadership and commitment to South Australian dairy farmers, the momentum is building and so is the excitement. Join us for a night to reconnect, reflect and celebrate the people, the progress that has shaped our industry.

With strong interest already, almost half the [tickets](#) have been sold.

👉 [Secure](#) your spot now and be part of the celebration

This is one night you won't want to miss



On behalf of SADA, a big thank you to [Hither & Yon](#) for coming on board as our official Beverage Partner for the SADA 90th Anniversary Gala.

We're looking forward to celebrating this milestone together on Friday, May 15 at the Morphettville Function Centre—raising a glass with the South Australian dairy industry to 90 years of progress