SADA EST 1936 CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

JOURNAL

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From the President

Robert Brokenshire

I can't believe it's November already!
I hope the recent rain has brought some welcome relief and given your crops a much-needed boost as we head into the summer period. As always, the changing seasons bring both opportunities and challenges for our farming businesses, and I hope the months ahead are a productive and positive time for everyone.
The past year has been one of continued challenges and important progress for South Australian dairy. Through changing market conditions, ongoing water and workforce pressures, and the need for practical drought support, SADA has remained focused on representing the interests of our members and strengthening the future of our industry.
Our advocacy has continued across state and national forums, with water security, drought assistance, biosecurity, animal welfare, workforce and industry sustainability among our key priorities. We have worked closely with government, industry bodies and stakeholders to ensure the concerns of South Australian dairy farmers are clearly understood and that our industry's needs remain firmly on the agenda.
I am particularly proud of the practical support SADA continues to provide to members. Whether assisting with contracts, legal and regulatory matters, effluent management or broader farm business challenges, our team remains committed to ensuring members have a trusted organisation to turn to when they need support.
We have also continued to support innovation, research, sustainability and workforce development, while strengthening relationships with processors, government, Dairy Australia and other industry partners. Initiatives such as Farm Smarter, traceability development and our ongoing work in environmental management reflect our commitment to practical solutions and long-term industry resilience.
As we approach the end of the year, I encourage members to remain engaged with SADA and continue sharing their experiences and concerns with us. Your feedback is invaluable in helping shape our advocacy and ensuring we remain focused on the issues that matter most to your farm businesses.
As we look ahead, SADA will continue to advocate for a viable, sustainable and prosperous South Australian dairy industry, with our members at the centre of everything we do.
I wish everyone a safe and productive month ahead.

Could you be a SADA Board Member?
As SADA continues to grow and evolve, we are seeking people interested in contributing to the future direction of the Association by joining our Board.
SADA is a diverse organisation, operating as the **State Dairy Farming Organisation (SDFO) member of Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF)**, while maintaining strong connections with DairySafe and Dairy Australia. These relationships help ensure South Australian dairy farmers remain connected, informed and represented across the changing environment of the entire supply chain.
The SADA Board has an important responsibility in setting and reviewing the Association's strategic direction, overseeing risks and compliance, and helping ensure a strong and sustainable future for our members and the broader dairy supply chain.
As the organisation continues to develop its services, Board members need to keep up to date with changing governance and regulatory requirements across areas such as operations, finance, audit, risk, governance, community engagement and advocacy.

If you have an interest in helping shape the future of SADA, I encourage you to consider putting your hand up. We welcome a diversity of perspectives and encourage members who are passionate about the future of South Australian dairy to get involved.



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

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**



Celebrating SA's Rural Women

2027 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award

South Australia is celebrating a significant achievement, with **2026 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award SA winner Narelle Zanker named the National Award winner** last month.

Looking ahead, applications are now open for the **2027 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award**, with applications closing on **4 November 2026**.

The Award recognises and supports women creating positive change across regional, rural and remote Australia through their businesses, industries, enterprises, initiatives and community leadership.

SADA knows there are many exceptional women across South Australia's dairy industry and rural communities whose contributions deserve recognition. We encourage members to spread the word and support the women in their networks to put themselves forward.

The new **Champion Her nomination pathway** allows individuals and organisations to nominate women they believe have strong leadership potential, a bold idea or a passion for creating positive change in rural, regional and remote Australia. It's a great opportunity to shine a light on women who may not otherwise put themselves forward.

The **Rural Women's Acceleration Grant** is another opportunity, providing a learning and development bursary to help women bring their ideas for rural and regional South Australia to life.

Whether you know a woman leading an innovative business, championing her community or developing an idea with the potential to make a difference, we encourage you to share these opportunities.

Find out more and apply:

- 2027 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award and Champion Her nominations
- Rural Women's Acceleration Grant

Update on Visa Processing for Agricultural Workers

Though the National Farmers Federation, SADA recently sought clarification from the Department of Home Affairs regarding the scope of visa applications eligible for priority processing under the current interim arrangements. Advice was also requested on options for visa applications outside this scope that are nevertheless critical to the agricultural workforce.

The Department has provided the following clarification:

Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visas

The interim priority processing arrangement applies to Working Holiday Maker visa subclasses 417 and 462 for applicants with specific skills in the agricultural sector.

To be eligible, applicants must: Have a contract with an Australian employer to provide their skills for agricultural work. Have skills that are required by the employer within the standard three-month average visa processing timeframe.

The Department advised that this is an interim arrangement introduced to support transitional measures following the Government's migration reforms, recognising the impact of changes to WHM visa processing and the critical workforce needs of agriculture.

Options for other visa applications

For visa applications that fall outside this interim arrangement, the Department confirmed that escalations can continue to be referred to the relevant team. Compelling and compassionate cases may also be submitted through the Department's Contact Us channels.

The Department also highlighted recent changes to Ministerial Directions 121 and 122, which prioritise eligible skilled visa applications in Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing, alongside other priority sectors including Construction, Health, Teaching, Resources, Defence and Law Enforcement.

Priority processing applies to eligible applicants both inside and outside Australia, including existing and new applications.

Members are encouraged to review the Department's Visa Processing Times information and explore the relevant escalation pathways where workforce requirements are urgent.

SADA will continue to monitor visa processing issues and advocate for practical solutions to address critical workforce shortages across the South Australian dairy industry.



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Drones in Agriculture (Micro-credential)

Online, self-paced (up to 10 hours).



Fleurieu farmers share experience after 104 days of using virtual fencing. When Fleurieu Peninsula dairyfarmers Perrin Hicks and his son Nathan learned virtual fencing was finally legalised for use in South Australia, they couldn't get on board quickly enough. And just over 100 days after Halter collars went onto their 330 cows, they say it has made a massive difference to not only their farming practices, but also their lifestyle.

Full Story here.

Cattle Industry Funding Under Review

Two important reviews could shape how cattle and dairy producers contribute to, and benefit from, industry funding.

Cattle Transaction Levy

Cattle Australia has proposed increasing the Cattle Transaction Levy (CTL) from **$5 to $6 per head from 1 July 2028**, subject to governance and accountability reforms being implemented from July 2027.

The proposal follows the first major review of the levy since 2009, including producer surveys and more than 34 regional consultations. The additional $1 would support increased investment in research and development, the National Residue Survey, marketing and broader biosecurity activities.

The review also recommends stronger oversight and industry representation, including establishing Integrity Systems as an independent entity and introducing regular levy reviews. The recommendations will inform discussions ahead of Meat & Livestock Australia's AGM in November.

South Australian Cattle Industry Fund Regulations Review

The scheduled review of the South Australian Cattle Industry Fund (CIF) Regulations has been completed, with the final report submitted to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development in September 2026.

The nine-month review examined the fund's financial sustainability, contribution arrangements, governance and alignment with future industry needs. Consultation included regional producer meetings, supply chain engagement, online sessions and a formal producer voting process. The South Australian Government will now consider the report as it progresses the remaking of the regulations.

For South Australian dairy producers, the review provides an opportunity to ensure the CIF remains fit-for-purpose and supports the priorities of the modern cattle and dairy industries.

NLIS 2.0 go-live scheduled for late 2027

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) has confirmed a revised go-live date for the next-generation National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database, following a comprehensive review of the project's delivery timeline.

The revised schedule will allow additional time for design validation, testing and delivery assurance to ensure the new platform meets industry requirements for reliability, security and functionality.

NLIS 2.0 is now progressing through its build and testing phase, with a successful proof-of-concept completed across three key traceability scenarios: livestock device issuance, property-to-property movements and loss of lifetime traceability.

Once operational, NLIS 2.0 is expected to provide an improved user experience, enhanced data security, more efficient data processing and stronger integration with other supply chain systems.

Importantly, the existing NLIS database will continue operating throughout the development and transition period, with current livestock traceability arrangements remaining in place.

MLA will provide further industry updates and information to support the transition ahead of the planned late-2027 launch.

For more information, visit NLIS 2.0.

ADF MEDIA RELEASE
Thursday 14 October 2026
Government – not farmers – must take responsibility for failed water projects

ADF MEDIA RELEASE
Thursday 29 October 2026
Carve-out dairy from this unfair trade deal

ADIC MEDIA RELEASE
Tuesday, October 27, 2026
Dairy urges Parliament not to accept one-sided EU trade deal

Upcoming Workshops

November
19 – 20 November Farm Business Fundamentals - Mt Gambier | Dairy Australia
December
1, 2, 8 & 9 December 2IC/Managers Course - Adelaide Hills | Dairy Australia
Discussion Group Christmas catchups to be announced.

Dairy Australia Job Opportunity

There is an exciting part time (0.6) opportunity for a **Regional Manager, Farm Delivery** to lead Dairy Australia's regional presence in **South Australia** and help deliver meaningful outcomes for dairy farmers and the broader industry. Find out more here.



The Regional Blueprint 2026 brings together on-the-ground economic intelligence gathered from across the RDA network. Serving as a key resource for government, investors, and local communities, the Blueprint outlines the economic strengths, emerging priorities, and major development opportunities across every region in South Australia.

The 2026 edition highlights significant growth and momentum across our regional economies, tracking an investment pipeline that has grown to $115 billion across more than 1,100 public and private projects—up 18 per cent from 2025.

Designed to support strategic planning, infrastructure advocacy, and investment decision-making, the Regional Blueprint reflects RDSA's commitment to driving sustainable economic growth, housing, workforce development, and vibrant regional communities.

Could You Be a SADA Board Member?

Help shape the future of South Australian dairy

The South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association (SADA) is a diverse and evolving organisation, playing a key role as the State Farming Organisation (SFO) representing South Australian dairy farmers within the national advocacy body, Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF). SADA also maintains strong connections with Dairy SA and Dairy Australia, helping ensure dairy farmers remain informed, connected and supported as the operating environment across the entire supply chain continues to change.

A strong voice for our members

The SADA Board plays an important role in setting and reviewing the Association's strategic direction, supporting sound decision-making and helping secure a strong future for our members and the broader dairy industry. The Board oversees organisational performance, existing and emerging risks, and compliance across all areas of the business. It also contributes to the continued development of SADA's services and its role in industry advocacy, governance and community engagement.

Help build a prosperous future

SADA is committed to a long and prosperous future. As the organisation continues to grow and develop its services to meet members' needs, Board members must be willing to stay informed about evolving governance and regulatory requirements, including in:

- Operations and finance
- Audit and risk management
- Governance and compliance
- Community engagement
- Industry advocacy
- Strategic planning and organisational development

If you are passionate about the future of South Australian dairy, bring valuable skills or experience, and are interested in contributing to the direction of the industry, we would love to hear from you.

Find out more

To learn more about joining the SADA Board: **Visit:** www.sada.asn.au **Phone:** 8293 2399 or **Email:** sada@sada.asn.au





LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA LIMESTONE COAST
Australian Government

This Farm smarter: Preparing your dairy business for a changing climate project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and delivered for the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel by South Australian Dairy Farmers Association.