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Media Release

SADA's new President working with farmers on profitability and industry transparency

NEWLY appointed South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association President John Hunt will address profitability and transparency in industry processes, along with the farmer's right to farm, as he embarks on his leadership of the State's peak dairy farmer advocacy group.

"As President of SADA, I'm committed to supporting the needs of grassroots farmers and ensuring their voice is heard, particularly on issues of importance such as securing profitability in the industry and establishing more transparency in industry-relevant government policy and planning," says Hunt.

"Furthermore, I want to help pave the way for the next generation of dairy farmers, as well as protecting the right of farmers to farm," he adds.

Hunt, who farms at Allendale East with wife Karen and first joined the SADA Board in 2013, was elected to the position of President at the recent SADA AGM held in Mount Gambier last month.

In accepting the role of president, John acknowledged the work done by his predecessor, Nick Brokenshire.

"Nick did a power of work as Interim President when he took on the role following David Basham's departure to the Australian Dairy Farmers. He stepped up at a time when the industry was in significant turmoil and has guided the Board and our new CEO tremendously."

At the AGM it was agreed that Nick Brokenshire would continue in the role of Vice President of the Association for the coming year.

A Bio for John Hunt is attached.
Images are available

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JOHN HUNT – Bio

John Hunt arrived in South Australia eight years ago with his family and a dream of dairy farm ownership. The native New Zealander has since been steadily building his dairy operations at Allendale East, in the State's Lower South East.

John and wife Karen are equity managers in a 600-cow dairy and co-own a neighbouring 240-cow dairy with John's brother. The couple have recently purchased an adjoining 75-hectares, with plans to convert it to a 250-cow dairy.

John first joined the SADA Board in 2013, armed with a strong passion for supporting the needs of grassroots farmers and ensuring their voice is heard. With a keen interest in facilitating the next generation of dairy farmers; protecting the farmer's right to farm; securing profitability in the industry and establishing more transparency in industry-relevant government policy and planning, John is committed to a strong, resilient and vibrant SA dairy industry.

Open and honest communication is key to both John's industry advocacy and in his day-to-day business operations. Managing a team of full time and casual staff with his family has also built a desire for continual self-improvement and skills development. Since completing his Advanced Diploma in Agriculture, John has actively pursued industry best practice education and training as part of a strategic plan to allow him more time off-farm for industry advocacy involvement, as well as providing his team with opportunities for career advancement.

He maintains that despite the occasional bump in the road, the future is bright for dairy farming in South Australia; comparing the favourable business climate, agronomic advantages, relative water security and climate, to other dairying countries. With a strong team now in place in his own business, John is committed dedicating much of his time in working with South Australia's dairy industry and key stakeholders to achieve SADA's mission of giving a voice to all dairy farmers and improving the viability and profitability of dairying now and into the future.