South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association

Election Policies 2022 election

SADA Policy Recommendations (synopsis)

Skills Fund

The South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association (SADA) recommends the provision of a $4 million package (over 4 years) to enable SADA to recruit and work with an appropriate training provider to enable competent staff to be trained in the dairy industry in South Australia.

Stamp Duty Rebate Scheme

SADA recommends to government for dairies that are purchased and:

- returned to **commercial production** within a year of purchase**,**

or which are purchased, or alternatively,

- generate, a **10% increase in farm income** from the date of purchase where a commercially operational farm is purchased, are granted a compete stamp duty rebate **two years after purchase**. In such cases the land must remain in primary production.

Support for the Murray Darling Basin Plan

SADA calls upon all parties to reaffirm and maintain their commitment to the continued roll out of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Methane abatement/capture

The South Australia has expressed a target of 50% reduction in emissions by 2030. This ambitious target will be assisted by support for expanded trials surrounding this important energy source.

- A funded position (to be funded at a cost of $100,000 per year over two years) to assist farmers in measuring, planning and reducing their emissions, such as supporting farmers with modelling, planning and reducing emissions to net zero by 2030.
- Funding a trial program to establish a fully functioning CAL system to operate as a proof of concept by committing $300,000 to demonstrate feasibility to other dairy farms in South Australia and throughout the rest of the nation.
- Funding of a further $200,000 to support the further roll out of dung beetle technology on dairy farms in SA.

Traceability Scheme

The South Australian Government supports the expansion of the ongoing SADA Traceability project with an injection of $750,000 to bring a functional traceability system to the marketplace for not only South Australia but Australia.

Mental Health Support

SADA calls upon the SA Government to assist with the ongoing roll out of this critical mental health triage by supporting SADA's work in this space by providing $60,000 per year for the next three years.

Skills Fund

As is the case of many primary industries, dairy is struggling to recruit staff to work on farms. The working holiday visa has a low take up rate which is directly attributed to - COVID-19 (backpackers not arriving).

The impact on farms has been noticeable. JobKeeper and JobSeeker payments have served as a disincentive to Australian workers taking up these roles. There is currently little pressure from the Commonwealth upon unemployed to seek work in rural areas and it is unlikely that there will be a replacement for the usual backpacker pool which provided labour for the dairy industry in the past.

JobKeeper was discontinued at the end of March 2021 which was hoped to impel the newly unemployed to seek work in rural areas. This does not appear to have been the outcome.

The Commonwealth Treasurer has also indicated a continuation of high expenditure in the current budget. The JobSeeker payment has been low for several years and on the basis of the Treasurer's last budget JobSeeker has been increased. SADA is concerned that this will continue to serve as a disincentive for people to seek rural work.

South Australia, to remain competitive with other jurisdictions has heard the call from South Australian citizens to do all it can to increase growth for the common wealth of the state. Dairy in SA has heard the call and responded.

These labour shortages are compounded by a lack of industry specific training. While Dairy Australia offers a range of non-accredited training options, the offering is neither expansive nor detailed. With one small exception, registered training organisations do not service the dairy industry thereby excluding it from mainstream funding support offered by the state and federal governments.

SADA has recently established a Workforce Committee with membership drawn from across the dairy sector. This will support the industry in actively engaging with governments and seeking a redress to the apparent lack of interest in regional training.

The work of this committee and farmer surveys has confirmed the serious impact that these staff shortages are having on primary sector businesses.

Training is a specific area of interest which is directly mentioned in the *South Australian Dairy Industry Action Plan 2019 – 2024*.

Policy Position

SADA recommends the provision of a $4 million package (over 4 years) to enable SADA to recruit and work with an appropriate training provider to enable competent staff to be trained in the dairy industry in South Australia.

SADA has made a commitment to increase milk production to 800 million litres from the current 500 million litres by 2030. When parties call on industry to respond to growth expectations, as all parties do, those parties has a responsibility to support those industries to achieve those expectations.

The proposed fund will support dairy farmers to source trained staff who will have a commitment to the industry both today and into the future.

Stamp Duty Rebate Scheme

SADA calls for an amendment to South Australia's stamp duty arrangements to provide incentives to ensure that dairy production land stays productive and so that disused dairies can be brought back online.

With the improvement of access to the Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula there has been a tendency in the past decade for productive farms to be bought by people who live and work in Adelaide or who are not dairy producers. Further afield there are other dairies which have also discontinued dairying for various reasons. This means that there are potentially productive dairy assets lying fallow in South Australia.

Both major parties in South Australia have an interest in the state's growth and both major parties are on the record as stating that growth is expected for the improvement of the standard of living enjoyed by South Australians.

SADA approves of these positive policy positions and recommends to both parties that there are policy settings which can be introduced which will encourage growth in South Australia.

Dairy farmers in South Australia have been doing their part of the lifting when it comes to the need to increase production and state production has increased in line with the Government's expectations.

When Governments call on the primary sector to lift then there needs also to be an input from Government. With increasing amounts of dairy land being subsumed for non-productive purposes by people buying dairy farms but not continuing with the business, as a partner it becomes hard to meet the expectations of Government.

If dairy production land is purchased and it becomes fallow as the new owner isn't involved in dairy production, it is a loss to the state.

SADA has recommended to the State Government that it enables changes to the stamp duty regime which will encourage the purchasers of land to continue to use the land for primary purposes. This can be done by creating a stamp duty rebate for farms that are maintained as primary production farms or for farms which are returned to primary production by their new owners.

This will enable dairy farmers, and perhaps other agribusiness sectors, to see that the SA Government is committed to the $23 billion by 2030 strategy and that Government is embracing its primary production land for productive purposes.

Whatever revenue is lost to Government will be regained in increased productivity and jobs in South Australia.

Policy Position

SADA recommends to government for dairies that are purchased and:

- returned to **commercial production** within a year of purchase**,**

or which are purchased, or alternatively,

- generate, a **10% increase in farm income** from the date of purchase where a commercially operational farm is purchased, are granted a compete stamp duty rebate **two years after purchase**. In such cases the land must remain in primary production.

Support for the Murray Darling Basin Scheme

Murray Darling

The Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP) has fallen off the national public debate radar with the return of a good season nationally, coupled with good prices across the board. Good prices have been the result of strained markets arising from drought conditions in other countries in the northern hemisphere.

The breadth of the MDBP is enormous and beyond the ability of this policy to comprehensively discuss it. Nevertheless, the plan remains of vital importance to the national dairy industry and there are a number of dairy farmers in SA that are also dependent on its continuing roll out and stability going forward.

SA receives an annual allocation under the plan of 1,850 gigalitres. Nevertheless, much more than that flows into SA but that water is allocated to the environment, namely the Lower Lakes, Coorong and the Murray Mouth.

During the last drought the upstream states repeatedly questioned the plan and threatening to walk away from it. Such an approach by the upstream states would become very problematic for South Australia and would doubtlessly lead to serious conflict between states as well as conflict between some states and the Commonwealth and would doubtlessly end up in the High Court. Too much risk is involved in such an outcome for all parties and therefore so far, the questioning and threats to abandon the plan have amounted to little more than just threats. Nevertheless, Australia will at some point again face drought and the commitment of all parties to the plan is necessary to ensure that it remains the roadmap for the Murray Darling system into the future.

SADA's position has been to support the plan and its targets.

Policy Position

SADA calls upon all parties to reaffirm and maintain their commitment to the continued roll out of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Emissions Policy

Increasing demand for animal products is a consequence of the world's increased capacity to afford animal products such as meat and milk. Dairy cattle are of great importance since milk is an excellent source of proteins, high-quality fat, minerals and vitamins.

To supply the increasing food demand, it is necessary to improve the production efficiency associated with reducing unfavourable effects on the environment, such as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

SADA has committed itself to a net zero position by the year 2030. SADA has already spent money on researching dung beetles as a vehicle to sequester carbon as well as funding feasibility research into generating electricity from manure.

Useful tools for farms managing measuring baselines already exists and SADA is advising all dairy farmers in South Australia to use those tools to enable them to determine their current on farm emissions.

The major source of greenhouse gas emissions on dairy farms is enteric methane (CH4) produced by methanogen bacteria in rumen (~55% of emissions). This methane is burped out by cows as part of the rumination process. Methane and nitrous oxide (N2O) from animal manure are the second largest source of emissions.

N2O is emitted in the breakdown of nitrogen from dung and urine deposited in the paddock and N fertiliser applied to the paddock. N2O and CH4 are also produced from dairy effluent management systems.

Carbon dioxide (CO2) is emitted from farm diesel consumption and coal-fired power stations used to generate electricity used on dairy farms. There are also emissions associated with production of grain, fodder and fertiliser bought onto the farm (pre-farm embedded emissions).

As methane is a far more assertive emission than carbon (a ration of 84:1 over a twenty-year period), SADA has chosen to look closely at those emissions as an opportunity to use that methane as a fuel.

The rumen microbiome comprises bacteria, ciliary protozoa, anaerobic fungi and archaea, which are the essential micro-organisms in methane production from by-products (H+) of the digestion of the other micro-organisms. Indeed, one of the digestive fermentation products is methane, which is released through digestion. (Burping makes up the substantial source of methane directly from the cow rather than flatulence which is often mistakenly identified as the source). As indicated decomposition of herd effluent is also a substantial source of methane production, particularly where that effluent is collected in high concentrations such as primary settling ponds on Total Mixed Rations (TMR) systems or hardstands near dairies where cows accumulate.

Therefore, implementing strategies to reduce emissions in dairy cattle will benefit the environment and the economy. Although most of the variation in methane production is due to non-genetic factors (such as feed and handling), the animal genetics can be notably used to reduce methane production in cattle due to its influences on the ruminal microbiome composition.

Notably:

- Currently in South Australia some growers are selecting breeds with the express intention of limiting methane production.
- Also, the work with seaweeds to eliminate methane from cow burps is advanced with two commercial projects currently under development in South Australia.

However, neither of these approaches offer a solution for methane that is generated from effluent.

SADA has already conducted two preliminary investigations of a farm in South Australia for its suitability for an effluent methane/power generation system. Bioenergy generation is achieved by converting an effluent lagoon into a Covered Anaerobic Lagoon (CAL) to generate electricity from biogas. Implementation of this approach is less capital intensive as compared to the traditionally engineered digesters, which offer an economy to farmers.

Typically, the capital cost for implementing a fully operational CAL system is higher than a pilot plant. Pilot plants, while cheaper to establish do not provide a fully operational CAL system.

Typically, a Combined Heat Power (CHP) engine cost is one third of the total capital cost of a methane project. In such a project initially biogas generation, organic loading rates and other parameters are assessed. Once assessed a suitable size CHP engine is installed for electricity generation. In this option, heating of the CAL will need to be completed during the process for optimum production of biogas.

SADA believes that a fully operational system should be developed for converting existing infrastructure on the proposed farm into a fully operational CAL. The expected cost for this is $440,000. The anticipated payback for a fully installed system would, converting existing infrastructure into a CAL, be in the range of 4-5 years.

Operational systems can be developed while operating the waste to energy plant and this can become a good demonstration site for other dairy owners. Awareness about climate change and cost-effective greenhouse gas reduction in the dairy sector will be maximised by implementing a waste to energy project.

Such a project achieves not only economic benefits but also environmental benefits for the dairy sector and the region.

Based on the work already done by SADA, a fully developed demonstration CAL should be installed at a participating dairy. After installation of these systems, it will be important to continue to assess outcomes of the system to fine tune the gasses that can be recovered for the purposes of electricity generation. Therefore, while feasible such an installation would still be in part, experimental.

Exact greenhouse gas reduction for dairy operations at the trial farm, can be calculated with further development of a standard for implementation in other dairy industries.

Policy Position

The South Australian Government has expressed a target of 50% reduction in emissions by 2030. Dairy farms, by virtue of their operation already provide opportunities to readily reduce emissions by the application of careful management.

SADA's ambitious target will be assisted by support for expanded trials surrounding a number of technologies such as sequestration using dung beetles and tapping methane as an energy source.

Therefore, SADA calls upon the SA Government to support a dedicated position to assist in creating a position to be managed within SADA to enable both a dedicated staff member to assist farmers in measuring their emissions to set baselines as well as providing advice to farmers on how to develop emission reduction technologies. SADA calls upon all parties to commit to:

- A funded position (to be funded at a cost of $100,000 per year over two years) to assist farmers in measuring, planning and reducing their emissions, such as supporting farmers with modelling, planning and reducing emissions to net zero by 2030.
- Funding a trial program to establish a fully functioning CAL system to operate as a proof of concept by committing $300,000 to demonstrate feasibility to other dairy farms in South Australia and throughout the rest of the nation.
- Funding of a further $200,000 to support the further roll out of dung beetle technology on dairy farms in SA.

This amounts to a commitment of $700,000 over two years for the establishment of achievement of net zero by 2030 South Australian Dairy industry.

Traceability Scheme

SADA is now rolling out its traceability alpha trial using distributed ledger (blockchain) technology. This technology is being developed internationally and by a number of industries in Australia. The Australian dairy industry is behind the curve and SADA's alpha trial is an industry first nationally. The SADA trial has the support of the GS1 national committee which includes the CEO of Woolworths in Australia Paul Graham in their numbers. GS1 has written a letter of support for the SA trial and they have indicated support for the technology being used called Hedera Hashgraph.

Blockchain and similar technologies create full transparency across the whole supply chain for everyone. It is immutable and a tamper proof record of the supply chain. The use of this technology will become an international standard within a few years. The Hedera Hashgraph technology is overseen by companies which include Google, IBM, Tesla, Boeing and some other 20 businesses of such stature and is therefore likely to become a supply chain standard for many other businesses around the world.

There are technical reasons for the support of this technology by these major companies which sidestep the scaling difficulties experienced by other blockchains.

The South Australian dairy industry and the South Australian Government have adopted the *South Australian Dairy Industry Action Plan* 2019-2024.

This plan's adoption by participants augers well for growth in South Australia. SADA has heard the call from the major parties to develop and grow technologies in South Australia that will lead to greater growth. If successful SADA will ensure that South Australia is uniquely positioned to explore emerging technologies throughout the dairy supply chain.

SADA has taken the lead in the exploration of these technologies by partnering with Datahash Pty Ltd, a South Australian distributed ledger development company.

This lead has resulted in expenditure by SADA in conducting an Alpha trial of distributed ledger-based technology in South Australia as a proof of concept.

That trial, which was completed using the Hedera Hashgraph network, has now been successfully completed. It resulted in the technology proving effective operational capability along a section of existing supply chains.

SADA in partnership with Datahash now intends to move to the second stage of the development of the protocols to enable a Beta trial.

The purpose of the Beta trial will be to demonstrate a traceability system which can be applied to all dairy supply chains throughout Australia.

Distributed Ledgers – What are they and how do they work?

Distributed ledger technology is a digital or binary system that records transactions related to assets and goods both tangible and intangible. Transactions on a distributed ledger, as well as other information relating to a transaction, are simultaneously recorded at discrete places on computers that support the distributed ledger as a whole. Information on a database recorded on a distributed ledger does not include an administration system or central data storage. Rather, the database exists among multiple unrelated computers (or nodes) across different geographical locations which are run by unrelated parties.

Distributed ledger technology permits users to record, share and synchronise data and transactions across a distributed network. The network is made up of numerous unrelated participants.

Distributed ledger technology, as well as information stored on the ledger, can be classified as either public or private. The classification depends on the pre-set accessibility protocols of the ledgers by anyone or by their devices. These devices are generally referred to as nodes. These nodes serve the overall ledger. Depending on the system, the ledger can be classified as permissioned or permissionless based on whether participants require permission from a certain entity to enter information onto the ledgers.

Distributed ledger technology has been identified as being useful for many applications, such as government financial systems, clean energy and manufacturing, and can help to improve existing processes. Distributed ledger technology removes the requirement of a central record keeping system, hence it can increase the speed of transactions. Moreover, it can reduce transaction costs.

Since the records are held at each network node, manipulating or successfully attacking the record is exceedingly difficult and therefore distributed ledger technology is believed to be a more secure way to keep business records. As the information is shared across a network, distributed ledger technology provides a more transparent and secure means of managing records.

Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies are frequently used as synonyms. However, both are different. Blockchain uses many technologies for applications. Distributed ledger technology is one of them. Blockchain is a form of distributed ledger technology that uses cryptography. This makes it virtually impossible to manipulate a record. It is unchangeable and distributed ledgers are used for recording transactions, tracking assets and recording the execution of contracts. Blockchain and similar technologies ensure security, transparency and trust in different types of transactions involving digital assets.

In blockchain technology, as the name suggests, data is organised and stored in packages known as blocks and those blocks are chained together. The blocks in the chain cannot be edited, as blockchain technology allows only the addition of more blocks of data.

Furthermore, blockchains are usually public, implying that transaction histories can be viewed by anyone. In a blockchain, anyone can become a node and participate in the operations. Thus, blockchain is permissionless.

Alternatively, not all distributed ledger technologies necessarily use chains of blocks. Where they do not, they still employ cryptographic validation. Distributed ledger technology creates a ledger in a decentralised way for obtaining consensus from the participants who do not automatically have a trust relationship with each other. Hence, new information is added only when all the participants consent to the action.

Unlike blockchains generally, distributed ledger technology usually imposes restrictions on its access, use and who is permitted to be a node. Nevertheless, as a technology it uses cryptographic signatures to timestamp a new entry automatically.

Distributed ledger technology provides both public and private features. Also, it can be both permissioned and permissionless. Permissioned and permissionless systems are systems which either require authorisation from a governing body to use the system or alternatively a system where anyone can use the system without the permission of a governing body. In more mature distributed ledgers bodies are less prevalent.

Why Hedera Hashgraph?

Hedera Hashgraph is a distributed ledger project which currently is still a governed ledger. There are currently 39 businesses and corporations which form the governing council of the project. These businesses include Boeing, IBM, Google, LG, Deutsche Telekom, Standard Bank and Eftpos. These businesses are time limited in their role and participants are drawn from multiple interest groups including information technology companies, academia, supply chain managers, retailers and communications companies.

Any distributed ledger or blockchain is impacted by a 'trilemma'. This trilemma means that a chain is either secure, widely distributed or slow. Blockchains like Bitcoin are extremely secure and are widely distributed with the resulting impact that they are slow, processing about 7 transactions per second. By way of example, Visa executes about 1,600 transactions per second. Similar blockchains like the Ethereum network execute at about 15 transactions per second. This makes the transactions expensive, and scalability becomes a problem in these traditional systems.

Hedera Hashgraph has a 10,000 transactions per second capability because of the protocols which have been designed into it, without diminishing its security. The system is designed to also be inexpensive as transactions on the system typically cost one ten thousandth (1/10000) of a US cent to execute. This capacity to sidestep the trilemma is the product of the protocols (non-blockchain but still a distributed ledger) the system uses.

Combined with the calibre of the governing council, and at those speeds and costs, the project is difficult to resist for the purposes of the proposed Beta trial.

For more information on Hedera Hashgraph please visit: Hello future | Hedera (www.hedera.com)

Datahash and their role

Datahash is an Adelaide based company (formerly Entrust) that built the South Australian Dairy Industry Alpha trial, which concluded with a positive result as a proof of concept.

Datahash already conducted an Alpha trial for the SA wine industry. This trial has now moved into the wine industry's Beta trial in SA.

Datahash built their systems on the Hedera Hashgraph protocol and, in the Alpha trial, created an interface with the distributed ledger

Results of the Alpha trial

Yet to be determined

The Beta trial scope of work

The purpose of this policy bid is to outline development beyond the Alpha trial, which followed the supply chain from the farmer's vat to the outgoing loading dock of the processor. For the project to advance a Beta trial will be necessary. While the proposed Beta trial will still be limited to the state of South Australia, it needs to be constructed in such a fashion as to produce a model which can be applied to the national supply chain.

A Beta trial should, at a minimum include:

- Multiple dairy farmers
- Transport providers

- A processor with a potentially national footprint
- A supermarket chain with a national footprint

This will provide a linear record from the farmer's vat to the shop shelf. The project may also include specific and information from individual cows, however, that is still being assessed for viability.

An expanded Beta trial may also include:

- Animal welfare certification
- Measures of generated emissions
- Input from stock feed manufacturers/producers
- Biosecurity certification
- Regulatory compliance certification

The inclusion of these potential other elements will be a deliberate attempt to elevate the nature of the premium product in South Australia. The *South Australian Dairy Industry Action Plan* 2019 – *2024* was to position South Australia as a supplier of premium dairy products, not only within Australia but also the international marketplace.

SADA's approach to the concept of 'premium' is that, to have legitimacy in the eyes of the consumer, a product need not only be able to demonstrate both provenance and quality but be able to demonstrate ethical merit.

By simply taking a linear approach to the supply chain, provenance and quality can be assured. However, by imbedding the certifications indicated above into the supply chain social licence is also assured. That will become an important part of the notion of 'premium', in future years. Public policy, particularly in Europe, is already firmly moving in that direction.

The ability to build in some or all the above certifications into the terms of smart contracts will be recorded on the distributed ledger as an immutable truth visible to all in the supply chain up to, and including, the customer.

The Beta trial

As the Alpha trial is complete the next step is to seek the partners indicated above for the Beta trial. Partners in the Beta trial will form a complete supply chain from primary source to customer. Once partners have indicated a willingness to participate, a completed supply chain model can be completed and the trial commenced.

There are currently no complete distributed ledger-based supply chains in Australian dairy.

Partnering - what will be required?

SADA is now seeking partners for the establishment of the Beta trial in South Australia.

As indicated the trial will need both a supermarket and a processor which have a national footprint. The reason for such a requirement is that the datapoints which are needed to prove up a national model should be demonstrated by organisations which use systems that already operate in the national domain.

What will not be exposed will be intellectual property which resides in the participants and all necessary safeguards will be put in place to protect commercially confidential material.

Smart contracts will be constructed in such a fashion to enable material which is sensitive or confidential to remain encrypted on the ledger or, alternatively, not even collected for the purpose of executing the contract.

The proposed model will replicate and expand on the functionality of the Alpha trial. It will reflect the pre-constructed system where information is extracted from systems only to the extent that they are required to inform the inputs to the smart contracts.

Once the partners in the supply chain have been formed, the supply chain and all its relevant inputs will be mapped as they were in the Alpha trial. The mapping process identifies all the places where the parts of the supply chain intersect with other parts of the supply chain. The intersection points on the supply chain then form the places where data is entered and/or smart contracts are executed. Many of the points on the existing supply chain are already recorded by way of barcodes tracking material through a chain. Supermarkets already use distribution centres where much of the material is scanned as part of supply chain management. Similarly, processors, transport companies and farmers to varying degrees have points of data entry.

The Alpha trial has already revealed that otherwise non-compatible systems can be interrogated by the interface systems created by Datahash, with that information able to be loaded onto the distributed ledger.

Once a complete supply chain is stored on a distributed ledger the need to retain internal stock management systems can be revisited.

Supply chains recorded on a distributed leger will enable stock management systems to be saved off site on the distributed ledger without necessarily having to maintain an internal system. Such ledgers are capable of operating as internal stock control systems.

The bulk of the work will happen at this point where Datahash, working with the various businesses in the supply chain, will build the supply chain management system on the Hedera Hashgraph distributed ledger.

This process will also identify points where non-electronic systems exist. The ideal system will be electronic devices which are connected via the internet of things (IoT) and which provide information to the distributed ledger automatically. Such devices input information into the ledger through code referred to as ‘oracles’. These oracles will ultimately communicate with technology such as in-vat testing systems which can do all the milk testing currently done by processors.

Under the current system there can be a delay of up to 6 weeks for a farmer to be paid while tests are completed. Tainted milk mixed in a tanker or a processor’s vat can lead to substantial losses for processors and farmers. However, in-vat testing using an ‘oracle’ will not only prevent contamination but also will alert farmers to problems earlier. Moreover, when a tanker picks up from the farm the smart contract can execute immediately meaning the farmer can be paid before the tanker leaves the farm.

The final intended result will be a fully integrated supply chain visible to all.

Policy Position

The South Australian Government supports the expansion of the SADA Traceability project with an injection of funding to bring a functional South Australian traceability system to the marketplace for not only South Australia but Australia.

Mental Health Support

Background

SADA again calls upon all parties to make a reinvigorated commitment of to regional mental health services for farmers living in remote and regional areas.

The past few years have visited a number of particular stressors in the dairy industry. Those stressors arose not only out of the climatic challenges of several years of drought but also profound pressures heaped upon farmers because of processor anti-competitive conduct.

In 2019 the ACCC investigated the conduct and placed criticism squarely at the feet of the milk processing industry in Australia. Subsequent to that time the Commonwealth Government addressed this conduct by enforcing rules on processors in the form of the compulsory Dairy Code of Conduct.

Nevertheless, during that period great harm was done to dairy farmers both nationally and in the state of South Australia.

SADA acknowledges the substantial work being done by the South Australian Health Department in delivering mental health services in remote and regional areas. However, for good reasons that work is still substantially focussed on a response-based model. Essentially, a person who is suffering from a traumatic event will need to reach out to the health department for assistance. When a person does so the Government's Regional Mental Health Services are there.

However, farmers are not a group who readily reach out in such a fashion and therefore, where mental health issues exist, they often deteriorate to a clinical level before help is sought.

For that reason, SADA as a farming organisation has already spent over $120,000 in recent years supporting outreach services to dairy farmers in particular, for not only its farmer members but all dairy farmers, who may be undergoing trauma as a result of adverse outcomes the dairy industry has suffered in recent years.

As a small organisation that amounts to a significant contribution to a particular issue and SADA believes that this demonstrates the level of concern for dairy farmers on a particular, non-advocacy based, issue.

The capacity for SADA, in partnership with Dairy SA, to continue to fund these critical services is limited and the commitment has clearly demonstrated how seriously SADA takes this matter.

Policy Position

SADA calls upon the SA Government to assist with the ongoing roll out of this critical work by supporting SADA's mental health triage work in this space by providing $60,000 per year for the next three years to assist in this work.

SADA has already proven itself capable to do this work as it has rolled out the support in partnership with Dairy SA for that period so no specialist advice or requirements are attached to the call for funding.