



# SADA NEWSLETTER

## January 2017

Contact SADA

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Visit Unit 5, 780 South Road Glandore SA 5037

Or find us on Facebook

### Power Cuts SADA can respond if you tell us

As you are undoubtedly aware the power infrastructure of South Australia has struggled to cope with recent events. We do have contact with the authorities when these cuts occur but we need to know early. If we don't find out repair crews are redeployed and it takes longer to get things fixed. If your power is down, call us.

### John Elferink joins SADA

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr John Elferink to the role of policy officer at SADA. John brings great talent and experience to the role and will be an asset for the association.

John was born in Holland but grew up in Darwin after his parents immigrated when he was a toddler. John worked for 15 years in law enforcement across the length and breadth of the Northern Territory, working in major centres, remote areas and as a detective in Alice Springs.



In 1997 he was elected to parliament in the NT representing the bush electorate of MacDonnell in Central Australia representing many people in the Cattle industry.

### Announcement of a new Member Benefit – Focus on Power prices

SADA has partnered with one of Australia's largest independent energy brokers, Make It Cheaper to help members save money on electricity.

Make It Cheaper offer a free quick, simple and easy bill comparison service across all types of electricity and gas accounts including small to medium businesses, commercial, industrial and household.

Make It Cheaper can successfully identify lower prices for 4 out of 5 customers\* and has already helped SADA members with their energy requirements.

To see whether you could save for your business (or home):

Call the SADA Members Hotline on 02 8077 0006 or email a recent bill with contact details to [sada@makeitcheaper.com.au](mailto:sada@makeitcheaper.com.au)

John held this seat until 2005. He moved back to Darwin where he became the member for Port Darwin in 2008, a position he maintained until 2016, when he retired from Parliament to pursue new adventures in life.

John served as the Attorney General, Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health Services, Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Child Protection. He also had the role of Leader of Government Business in the Parliament.



*Giving farmers a voice*

# SADA – Giving dairy farmers a voice

John recently moved to Adelaide, home of his wife's substantial extended family, to pursue a quieter life post politics. John brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our team across the public policy, primary industry policy and legal domains.

## ACCC Inquiry into the dairy industry

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is inviting dairy farmers to participate in a series of public forums. The forums are a part of the ACCC's Inquiry into the Australian dairy industry.

The purpose of these forums is to hear directly from dairy farmers about competition and fair trading issues that affect them. The forums will be held in each state and venues include:

**Warrnambool, Victoria**, on Monday 27 February 2017

**Hahndorf, South Australia**, on Monday 20 March 2017

The forums are an important part of the ACCC's public consultation for the Dairy Inquiry, which is examining competition between milk processors, contracts between processors and farmers, global supply markets, and the profitability of dairy farms. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss issues directly with ACCC Commissioners.

The forums are just one option to have your say. We encourage you to call or email us if you cannot attend one but would like to contribute to the Inquiry.

Contact details, and further information on the forums and the Dairy Inquiry are available at <https://www.accc.gov.au/about-us/information-for/agriculture/dairy-inquiry>. The venues and times for the forums will also be provided at this link shortly.

## Blue Lake Dairy.

Members of the SADA Board recently attended the opening of Blue Lake Dairies facility at Millicent. The event also provided an opportunity for John Hunt and Sharon Joppich to meet with Premier Jay Weatherill to discuss issues and challenges currently facing the industry. John and the Premier have committed to continuing this dialogue in the coming months.



With Stage One commissioned, it's positive to see that BLDG is getting the facility ready and getting markets established. There is a lot of opportunity to produce more milk in the SE to support Stage Two. SADA looks forward to working with the company as it turns its focus to the processing of locally produced milk.

## Family Leave By CHAS CINI

Unpaid Family Leave is provided for in the National Employment Standards. The modern Awards do not cover this type of leave. A brief summary of the unpaid leave is as follows:-

"All employees in Australia are eligible for unpaid parental leave if they have completed at least 12 months of continued service with their employer.

This includes casual employees but only if :

- (a) They have been employed by the employer on a regular and systematic basis for a sequence of periods over at least 12 months;



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- (b) Had not it been for the birth (or expected birth) or adoption (or expected adoption) of a child, they would have a reasonable expectation of continuing employment by the employer on a regular and systematic basis.”

There are also paid family leave benefits paid by Centrelink. The Paid Parental Leave scheme is paid for by Centrelink on the basis that the employer pays the employee. On completion of the Centrelink form by the employer, Centrelink will forward payment to the employer who must then pay the employee through its payroll system.

For further information about the Paid Parental Leave Scheme which will have some changes on 1st January 2017 you should visit [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au).

## Backpackers on Dairy farms

Are you employing Backpackers?  
Anyone currently employing someone on a 417 or 462 visa needs to register with the ATO by 31 January 2017 to use the new rate.

If you aren't currently employing backpackers but will later in the year, you do not need to register by the deadline. You just need to register when you employ them.

A registered employer should withhold at a rate of 15 per cent for the first \$37,000 paid to a working holiday maker. An unregistered employer still has a withholding obligation but at standard foreign resident rates.

To find up-to-date information for employers and backpackers, visit [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au) and search 'backpacker tax'.

## SADA Board

Your current SADA Board and Administration contact information is listed below. If at any time you wish to discuss any dairy related matters please don't hesitate to contact us.

### South East

**John Hunt – President**

Allendale East SA 5291

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Sharon Joppich

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### Central Region

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### Administration

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**John Elferink – Policy Officer**

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**Jen Taylor – Business Manager**

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[accounts@sada.asn.au](mailto:accounts@sada.asn.au)





## Good people to know.

equipment, fuel theft and illegal rubbish dumping. Here are some tips to help keep your property safe.

### NO ONE HOME?

If no one lives on your property, or if you're away for the day or away on holidays, arrange for someone to regularly check on it. Even if this might not stop opportunistic theft, it does mean you're able to get the police involved at the earliest possible time in the hope they can catch those responsible.

### KEEP AN INVENTORY

Know what you own. Keep a complete list of all your tools, machinery and equipment in a safe place. Write down serial numbers and take photographs. It'll help police track down the items and help with your insurance claim if the items can't be returned.

### BE INSURED

This seems obvious, but it's all too easy to be underinsured — and you might not notice until it's too late. Review your insurance coverage to make sure you have enough and that everything is included on your policy.

### KEEP YOUR KEYS SAFE

Don't leave keys in vehicles, no matter how convenient it might seem. Install a secure key cabinet in a suitable location and keep it locked.

### LOCK UP YOUR FUEL

Fuel is an expensive resource and it's among the top items stolen from farms. Keep your fuel under lock and key in a location well away from a public road and where you can monitor it.

### LOCK UP YOUR VALUABLES

Tools, machinery and larger pieces of equipment like air compressors, pumps and generators are all prime targets for theft. Include them on your inventory. And, most importantly, lock your sheds and toolboxes where you keep these items.

### MAKE ITEMS TRACEABLE

Engrave items so they are easily identified and hard to sell on. Or install GPS trackers on them so they can be located if they are stolen.

Sources:

FES Tanks (<http://www.festanks.com.au/blog/fuel-theft-on-farms/>) and University of New England (<https://blog.une.edu.au/news/2015/08/06/une-study-finds-alarming-increase-in-rural-crime/>)

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## ARE YOU AT RISK OF THEFT?

It's easy to become complacent when it comes to farm security. Sometimes it's just more convenient to leave the ute keys in the ignition when it's parked in the shed. How often do you lock the front door when you're off down the paddock?

Theft from farms is actually a big problem. According to a 2015 University of New England study, the biggest criminal activities affecting farmers are trespassing and illegal hunting or fishing, stock theft, theft of tools or

### ACCORDING TO A UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND SURVEY OF MORE THAN 3,000 FARMERS IN 2015:

59% of farmers surveyed had dealt with trespassing and illegal hunting or fishing at some point during the past 12 years

28.5% had experienced stock theft

26% of farmers had tools and equipment stolen

23% had fuel stolen

12% had experienced machinery theft

Contact **Lia Cockram** (08) 8425 6567 or email [sada@sada.asn.au](mailto:sada@sada.asn.au) if you would like to speak with your local WFI representative.