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# SADA NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022

As we publish this month, the sounds of step ladders clacking and cable ties zipping can be heard around regional South Australia and in Adelaide as corflute posters are attached to stobie poles. At the same time levy poll packs are hitting the mailboxes of dairymen across Australia. It is time to vote! We have outlined the [SADA election priorities](#) in the previous newsletter and will report on feedback from the major parties as we get closer to 19 March. In the meantime SADA has worked with our PPSA partners to arrange pre election debates in Adelaide and Mount Gambier. See below for details.

Also on the agenda is levy poll. At SADA we believe that it is vital that all Dairymen vote. The **Levy Poll Advisory Committee (LPAC)** that was established from across the industry has undertaken a comprehensive investigation and provided clear ad-

vice. In making its recommendation, LPAC took into consideration many factors including that there has been no change to the levy since 2012, in the period 2011 to 2021, the CPI rise has been 21%, financial projections of a continuing decline in reserves, actioning of the Australian Dairy Plan which highlights significant challenges and headwinds to be tackled over the next decade requiring increased investment in key areas to realise the dairy industry's potential, as well as analysis of the benefits of RD&E investment for dairy farmers. LPAC took into account this evidence and data as well as many views on the dairy service levy from industry stakeholders and farmers. It is important all eligible voters exercise their right and make an informed decision having considered the LPAC work. Please contact the office if you would like to discuss Levy Poll.

EXCLUSIVE PRE-ELECTION DEBATE

## SA VOTES

RURAL | REGIONAL | AGRICULTURAL

You're invited to this EXCLUSIVE event: a pre-election featuring the key political players in agriculture in South Australia.

With the state election just weeks away this is your opportunity to ask questions and listen in, as the major rural, regional and agricultural issues facing the state are debated.

Speakers on the night are Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development David Basham, Shadow Primary Industries Minister Clare Scriven, and the Greens spokesperson Robert Simms.

**WHEN:** Tuesday 1st March 2022

**WHERE:** Members Dining Room, Adelaide Showground Wayville

**COST:** \$55 RMC/PPSA Members | \$65 non-members and ticket includes cocktail food and drinks

**TIME:** 6-7pm for food/drinks, debate begins at 7pm

PROVISION FOR RURAL/REGIONAL GUESTS: If you live more than 100ks outside of the Adelaide metropolitan area, you can attend via a live link. Contact Alistair Lawson at [alistair@agcommunicators.com.au](mailto:alistair@agcommunicators.com.au) to register and be issued a Zoom link ahead of the debate. For further inquiries contact [caroline@podtalk.com.au](mailto:caroline@podtalk.com.au)

**MT GAMBIER CANDIDATES DEBATE**

The 2022 State Election is almost upon us and with the polls opening on 19 March, please join SAFA as we put the hard questions about the issues that matter to the key candidates who are seeking your vote.

\*\*\*SEATS ARE LIMITED\*\*\*

**KATHERINE DAVIES**  
Labor Candidate

**TROY BELL**  
Member for Mount Gambier

**BEN HOOD**  
Liberal Candidate

**ALAN RICHARDSON**  
Opposition

ALSO FEATURING  
**MINISTER DAVID BASHAM (INV)**  
**SHADOW MINISTER CLARE SCRIVEN**

REGISTRATION:  
[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/8XJUL](https://www.trybooking.com/8XJUL)

**09 MARCH 2022**  
**5.30PM FOR 6PM START - 8.30PM**

BOB AND GAYLE COWAN AUDITORIUM  
 UNISA WIRELESS WAY, MOUNT GAMBIER

[View the full SADA 2022 State Election Policy Document](#)



## AgCareerStart GROWING TOMORROW'S FARMERS

Have a positive impact on the next generation of Australian farmers. Employ a young Australian to work on your farm for 10-12 months and share your skills, knowledge, and industry insights as a farm-host. When you sign up you will. Receive free FarmSafe training, and a \$2000 grant for industry support to train and mentor. For more information go to ag-



Australian Government



**Murray Darling Basin Authority** met on 8 February 2022 by video teleconference. The meeting was chaired by Sir Angus Houston with all members present. Sir Angus introduced **new Authority member Roseanne Healy** and fellow Board

members warmly welcomed her to her first meeting. They also acknowledged the Minister's announcement last week of **six new Basin Community Committee members**: Mr Andrew Drysdale (Top Camp, Queensland); Mr Mike Gilby (Irymple, Victoria); Mr Warren Jacobs (Mt Compass, South Australia); Mr Feli McHughes (Lightning Ridge, New South Wales); Ms Emelia Sudholdz (Horsham, Victoria); and Ms Alice Williams (Orange, New South Wales) noting the diversity of the communities and interests they and the eight continuing members represent. You can read the full report here [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)

## Watch out for interest rates

Over the past few years and as a response to the international challenges facing COVID, reserve banks around the world have been intervening in the economy in a number of important ways. The now famous "Money printer go Brrrrrrr", YouTube meme of Jerome Powell, the Chair of the US Federal Reserve illustrates the point. All of that is about to change in the US.

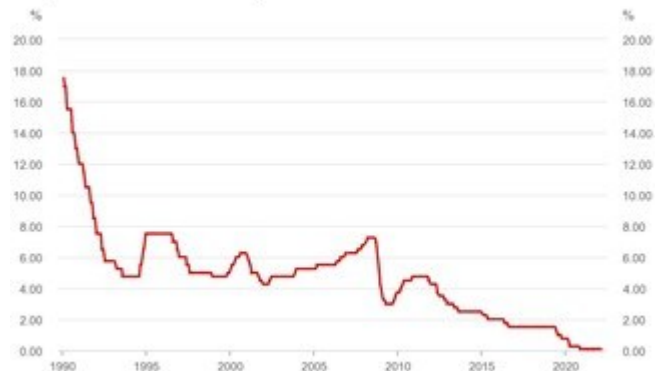
The US Federal Reserve has already indicated that there will be rate increases coming, with one US bank (the Bank of America) indicating that they expect as many as 7 increases in the current calendar year. The US is being forced to tackle its 7% inflation rate.

In Australia the Reserve Bank has announced the end of its bond buying program by the 10<sup>th</sup> of February and while at its last meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, they kept the rate at an all time low of 0.10%, that won't be the case forever. Nevertheless, they have indicated that the rates will stay low in the interim, but they have also spelled out the drivers for that policy to change:

*Ceasing purchases under the bond purchase program does not imply a near-term increase in interest rates. As the Board has stated previously, it will not increase the cash rate until actual inflation is sustainably within the 2 to 3 per cent target range. While inflation has picked up, it is too early to conclude that it is sustainably within the target band. (RBA Statement 1/2/22)*The Australian inflation rate

was tracking at 3% at the end of the Sept quarter 2021 after being at 3.8% in the previous quarter. The RBA is waiting to see the next quarter at least before responding, however, if the current numbers continue, then the pressure for rate increases will be pronounced.

Graph of the Cash Rate Target



Source: RBA

Many farms will have been using the current milk price to retire debt or to invest in their properties. This is naturally supported by SADA as we want to see a strong and vibrant dairy industry in South Australia, however, as many farmers in the state are currently and rightly in 'head down/bum up', mode SADA had decided to point out that the current cheap money won't be around for too much longer.

Did you miss any of our updates? [Register Here](#)

# Around the grounds

- John Hunt and Andrew met with Mehdi Doroudi (newly appointed PIRSA Chief Executive) and Nathan Rhodes (PIRSA Executive Director Biosecurity SA) to provide a on current issues. These included the SA Dairy Action Plan progress, water allocations, traceability, workforce and policy development.
- Elf attended a meeting of developers for the establishment of a substantial barn on the Fleurieu Peninsular. Present were all appropriate departments and the developers to discuss the project.
- Andrew and Ash met with officers from PIRSA to discuss current issues. These included traceability, policy development and changes at PIRSA.
- Andrew, Elf and Alison joined the SADA Board for the first face to face board meeting for 2022. The meeting was held at Allendale East in the Southeast.
- Ash attended the first BAH-WAC meeting for 2022. Among the items discussed was the incidence and management of chlamydia in cattle, the use of pain relief as part of live-stock management and an update on the dairy traceability trial.
- The SADA Board and team met with the Dairy SA Board and Dairy Australia management in Mount Gambier.
- Elf met with Lactalis regarding participation in the next staged of the traceability project. Lactalis and Datahash are to have a further follow up meeting.
- NEXT WEEK Hunt, Andrew and Elf will participate in a PPSA strategic planning session.
- Hunt and Andrew attended the PPSA Q3 meeting. Topic discussed included the PPSA Election Strategy, NFF Regional Development Precincts and the EW Stevens Trust.
- Hunt and Elf met with Minister Basham to discuss SADA's election priorities.
- Ash/Andrew/Elf all continue to contact farmers with per-

## Appointment of Chief Executive of the Department of Primary Industries and Regions

The department is delighted to announce Professor Mehdi Doroudi has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA). Since 2016, Mehdi has worked as the department's Deputy Chief Executive and has served as Acting Chief Executive since December. During that time Mehdi has been accountable for leading the industry development, science and innovation, policy and legislative activities of PIRSA. He has demonstrated strong leadership and management capabilities both when deputy and most recently, in his acting role. I have no doubt Mehdi will continue to display this dedication to the role and advancing the prosperity of our primary industries across the many programs and activities PIRSA has underway.

- sonalised communications to ensure SADA's concierge service to its member.
- Andrew represented SADA at an ADF National Council meeting in Melbourne. Counsellors from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia attended in person while counsellors from Western Australia and Tasmania attended via videoconference. Significant items discussed at the meeting included the Dairy Levy Poll 2022, the reform of ADF Policy development, Dairy Australia and the upcoming federal election.
- Andrew and Ash met with Simon Edwards (Willunga Vets) to discuss the creation of a large animal vet internship program that would enable uni graduates to enter the rural industry and service vet clinics around South Australia. Discussions were also had around the building of a new large animal vet hospital in the Fleurieu region and what grant funding is/would be available to enable such a build.

- Elf & Hunt met with Jayent Kaskar to examine the potentiality for the expansion of Methane Power generation in the Southeast. Hunt and Elferink will follow up.
- Elf assisted a farmer with a contractual dispute arising out of a testing issue with his processor. The matter has been followed up with correspondence.
- Elf/Ash/Andrew all continued to communicate with various participants in the roll out of the Beta traceability trial, this work led to the signing of the second Memorandum of Understanding with ValAi a related entity. Elf to follow up with the drafting of a non-disclosure agreement between the parties.

- Andrew attended the first meeting of the new Agribusiness Industry Skills Council. This was an introductory meeting conducted via video conference where members introduced themselves and the Council was informed of the current focus of the Training and Skills Commission and the Minister for Innovation and Skills, to whom they report.

## Livestock Underpass Grants Scheme

Livestock underpass grants are funded by the Regional Growth Fund to provide financial assistance to eligible livestock primary producers, abattoirs and saleyards to establish livestock underpasses linking farming properties (or abattoir or saleyard) that are crossed by public roads. A total of \$3 million in grants is available for the construction and installation of livestock underpass infrastructure. Read the [guidelines for details](#). Applications close at 5 pm on 30 June 2022 or when funding has been exhausted, whichever comes first.

# 2022 CENTRAL CONFERENCE

LEADING THE FIELD

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Wednesday 16 March 2022**

Conference

BRIDGES EVENT CENTRE  
MURRAY BRIDGE RACING CLUB

Post conference

BRIDGEPORT HOTEL, MURRAY BRIDGE

## 2022 DairySA Central Conference: Leading with Dairy 16 March 2022, Murray Bridge

CONFERENCE VENUE: Conference: 'Bridges Event Centre', Murray Bridge Racecourse, Brinkley Road. Post conference events at the Bridgeport Hotel, 2 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge.

DairySA together with the Central Conference Reference Committee are thrilled to be presenting the 2022 DairySA Central Conference in March in Murray Bridge.

A line up of engaging speakers will cover topics designed to challenge your thinking across all aspects of dairy farming today, including:

- how to capitalise on your investments to future proof your business
- a 'warts and all' dive into succession challenges
- the resilience factor of your people and how to get the most from your labour force
- dedicated 'Tech Time' showcasing dairy technology
- diversifying the farm – benefits and challenges of agritourism, plus much more!

These events are valuable networking opportunities and gives you the chance to reconnect with suppliers, colleagues and industry members.

### **If you are a primary producer and have been ordered to quarantine or isolate,**

*You must remain within the boundaries of your property and avoid contact with other people.*

*Essential travel within and between land parcels is acceptable, provided you avoid contact with any staff/contractors and visitors (e.g. stay in your vehicle with windows closed to allow contractors or deliveries to enter the property via a gate).*

*In exceptional circumstances, where there are a very limited number of individuals who can maintain a function critical to the South Australian community, critical close contacts may be permitted to continue working.*

*To trigger this process, the workforce capacity to maintain a function needs to be under significant strain and alternative options for support need to be first exhausted.*

*Allowing close contacts who are critical / essential workers to continue working needs to be balanced with the risk of further disease transmission in worksites which could lead to even greater disruption than what was originally being sought to be addressed.*

*View the [guidelines for applying for permission for close contact critical workers to return to the worksite.](#)*

**Woolworths  
Dairy Innovation Fund**

**LAST CHANCE:** Applications Close 20 February.

If you would like to discuss an idea or apply, we're here to help.  
Contact us on 8293 2399.