



# SADA Newsletter

## July 2019

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## SADA Meets Liberal Party at Parliament House

John Hunt, Andrew Curtis and John Elferink recently met with the Liberal Party's regional affairs committee at Parliament House. The committee is made up of those Members of Parliament who have an interest in rural and regional South Australia. The meeting also included the presence of Primary Industries Minister the Hon Tim Whetstone, Attorney General Vicki Chapman and Minister for Mining and Energy Dan van Holst Pellekaan.

A number of issues were raised with the parliamentary wing of the Liberal Party including the cost of water, the impact of the drought, the need for trespass law reform and the South Australian Dairy Industry Action Plan.

During the meeting Attorney General Vicki Chapman outlined the steps that the Commonwealth

Government is seeking to take to amend trespass laws relating to unlawful farm entry by animal activists in particular.

The Attorney General also indicated that state laws are actively under review and that government would be making announcements in the near future.

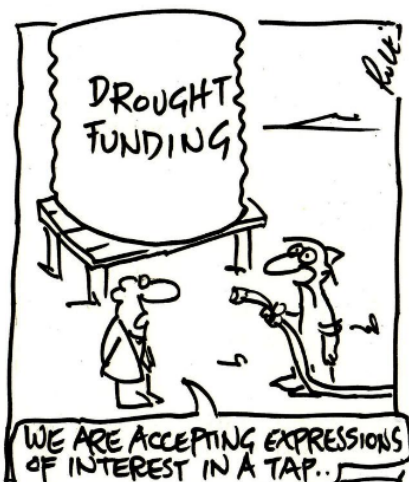
SADA continues to make representations to the South Australian Government regarding the inadequacy of the state's trespass laws when those laws were never designed to attend to the sorts of farm invasions that have been seen in recent times by animal activists.

John Hunt also raised the issue of the issue of water, particularly the cost of water, at some length. While the room was sympathetic the translation of that sympathy to activity by no means assured.

## Feed still thin on the ground

Poor rainfalls continue to place pressure across the livestock sector and dairy is no exception. Lower than average rainfalls have meant that feed has been thinner on the ground and feed has been expensive to buy. SADA Vice President, Nick Brokenshire recently told media that grass growth was reduced to 2 tonnes per hectare down from an average of 3 tonnes.

While feed has still been available through suppliers it has been expensive and SADA continues to remain critical of interstate governments, particularly NSW, who do not comply with earlier agreements not to subsidise transport (and by proxy grain prices).



SADA acknowledges the efforts of South Australia's primary industries minister, the Hon Tim Whetstone for his effort in attempting to address these issues with his interstate colleagues however sadly his words seem to be falling on deaf ears.

In the mean-time recent rains have farmers crossing their fingers hoping for good follow up rain to see the season improve.

The message for farmers is that continued care and maintenance will have to be advanced to financial planning for the next year and budgets will doubtlessly remain tight for that time. Dairy SA do run programs in budgetary management and farm management. If farmers are interested in receiving further training in these areas they can contact Dairy SA directly or alternatively contact SADA and we'll make the connections for you.

## Opening prices and the Mandatory Code

The opening prices posted by processors are a source of some rare optimism in the industry. Some processors have come out early and SADA welcomes that on behalf of its members, however, other processors have dragged the chain and waited to announce their prices. After a couple of hard years dealing with the collapse of Murray Goulburn, low prices, \$1 milk and drought the current round of pricing reflects improvement in the industry.

The Mandatory Code has not yet been released by the new government however, the commitment has been made to roll it out soon.

It is expected that the Code will contain a demand that processors will have to make their prices public by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June each year. That will enable farmers time to consider the terms of the contract, including price, that they are being offered by all processors in the marketplace. It is also expected that the processors will have to post their standard form contracts on their websites 30 days prior to the intended agreement term.

The effect of these changes on behalf of farmers should see a greater stability in forecasting for the industry as a whole.

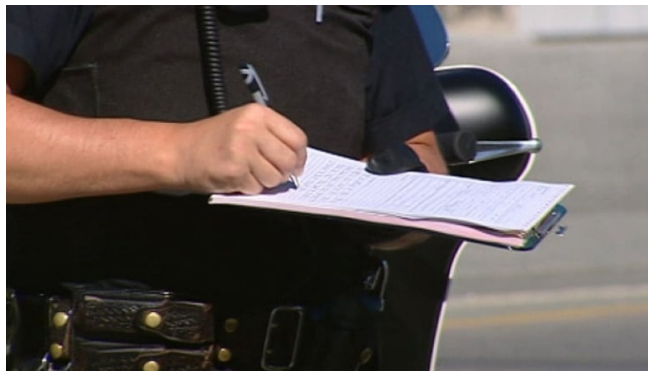
## Farm Trespass legislation in SA

The issue of farm trespass has remained high on SADA's agenda and there appears to be some movement in government regarding changes to legislation that captures farm trespass in South Australia. As mentioned above Vicki Chapman, South Australia's Attorney General, has indicated changes to the legislation covering the field. The Government has acknowledged that there is a gap in the laws that seek to cover the field in the area of trespass.

While the nature of the changes have yet to be flagged and SADA intends to take an active role in describing what changes are expected by industry, not only in the

law but also with regard to procedures used by the Government in policing, the sharing of intelligence and the role of prosecutors in ensuring all efforts are made to make these laws serve the purpose for which they are designed.

New South Wales have responded to the issue of farm trespass by announcing legislation that will see on the spot fines of \$1,000, biosecurity breach fines of \$220,000 and corporate fines of \$440,000.



<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/trespassing-animal-activists-face-dollar440000-fines-jail-time-in-nsw/ar-AAEEDCp?ocid=spartanntp>

## DIAA industry awards



The Dairy Industry Association of Australia (DIAA) are having a gala dinner on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August at the Ian McLachlan Room at the Adelaide Oval.

SADA has become a major sponsor of the dinner to enhance the relationship between processors and producers in this state. This approach is consistent with the intention of the Dairy Industry Action Plan 2019-2024 to create partnership relationships across the dairy sector in South Australia.

SADA will sponsor three awards on the evening focusing on Best Innovator, Best Relationship with a Processor and Young Farmer awards.

Tickets are \$120 and it promises to be a great evening. SADA encourages farmers to make the effort to be there.

## The Murray Darling Scheme in the press again

The relentless media assault on the Murray Darling Basin Scheme was continued with the most recent attack coming from the ABC's Four Corners program 'Cash Splash', on the 8 July 2019. The Four Corner's program was branded as a "biased and one-sided agenda", piece by Luke Simpson, CEO of the NSW Irrigators' Council even before the program went to air. After the program went to air it was deeply criticised by a number of groups led by the NFF.

The subsequent Media Watch review of the program agreed that Four Corners failed to present a fair and balanced report.

After the report went to air clutch of around 20 senior academics and scientists with expertise have declared strong support for the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and accused the ABC's Four Corners of putting it at risk by



focusing on those holding very different views. The group's head, Robert Vertessy, a professor of water resources at the University of Melbourne School of Engineering and former public servant who was also chief executive of the Bureau of Meteorology for five years and the head of the CSIRO's Land and Water Flagship for three years lashed out at the report by 4 Corners saying that the program was superficial and sensationalist.

Sadly, it was.

There is a consistent demand from participants in the debate for decision making to be guided by science. The Vertessy group have stated:

*"It troubles us that some in the community imagine that most scientists regard the Basin Plan as a mess. We worry that negative populist rhetoric may hold sway and derail the Basin water reform process entirely."*

Moreover, the group also go onto observe that:

*"Water entitlements yielding an average of 2000 GL/year have been acquired for the environment by the Commonwealth. This is a substantial transfer of water from the consumptive pool back to the environment. Indeed, it is the largest re-direction of water to the environment that has ever been made in any large river basin in the world."*

*"The Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, in concert with relevant State agencies, now routinely and expertly deliver these secure water entitlements, targeting critical places in the Basin where environmental water is needed. Much effort has been put into assessing the environmental benefits arising from those releases and it has been demonstrated that positive environmental benefits are being generated and more are to be expected over time."*

They conclude:

*"Calls for more detailed hydrologic audits have merit, but only if done systematically and patiently, becoming business as usual. In particular, the volume of extractions from floodplain harvesting must be better quantified. We would stress that substantive improvements in auditing water movement in the Basin will be technically difficult and costly, so there is a cost-benefit dimension to be considered."*

This has been the position of SADA for a number of years and SADA's world view has not changed on this point.

However, it appears when scientists express an opinion that does not accord with the media villagers then the media are all too happy to grab torches and pitchforks to call for Royal Commissions and the suspension of the plan.

This approach of ignoring the science when it suits your story does not serve Australia well and the desire to tear down the only credible vehicle to protect the river system, without a plausible alternative, amounts to little more than vandalism.

## Money for Dairy Industry Action plan



The Dairy Industry Action Plan 2019-2024 has now received financial support from the State Government and the South Australian Dairy Industry Fund so that the Action Plan will receive \$120,000 in current financial year to pursue its ambitions for not only supporting the South Australian dairy industry but also elevating South Australia into the premium dairy product producer that will be internationally recognised as a jurisdiction whose name is synonymous with quality.

The South Australian Dairy Industry Action Plan 2019-2024 was the product of two years of preparation by SADA and wide consultation within the industry. It was launched by Minister Tim Whetstone earlier this year and harbours the ambition to have South Australia become recognised as a premier jurisdiction for the production of the finest dairy product in the world.

The \$120,000 amounts to a substantial commitment to a position that will see a person dedicated full time to the ambitions of the plan.

This support, particularly from the South Australian Dairy Fund, is a direct return to the advancement of dairy farming in SA based on the sales of the SADA Fresh milk product through our partners, Coles.

## SADA Fresh Cheeses trying to crack the export market

After the launch of the Dairy Industry Action Plan 2019 – 2024 SADA has embarked on its long-standing ambition to see SA dairy products sold for export in the premium marketplace.

In partnership with Beston Global, SADA introduces SADA Fresh Cheese products.

SADA Fresh cheeses recently went on display in Melbourne at the Australia China trade expo. The cheese attracted attention from the public and potential exporters alike.

The purpose behind the cheese is in line with the Industry Action Plan and uses South Australian milk for export. The effect of overseas sales will be two-fold.

Firstly, it is squarely aimed at the notion that more South Australian milk should be sold outside of South Australia.

Secondly, unlike the product which is sold through our industry support partner Coles, the income from SADA Fresh cheeses will be remitted directly back to SADA to enable SADA to lift levy pressures from members. The ultimate goal of this ambitious approach is to have an organisation that represents South Australian dairy farmers without having to levy and fees or ask for subscription payments.

The development of overseas markets isn't a walk up start however, and the international marketplace for dairy products remains highly competitive but SADA is becoming increasingly ambitious in support of its members and its members interest.



There are no guarantees of success but SADA believes that with the assistance of its SADA Fresh premium brand that South Australia will become the premium location that SA dairy farmers know it can be.



## Levy Increases restrained to CPI



For the second year running the SADA Board had determined to restrain the annual fee review to an increase of CPI only. The CPI for 2018-2019 was 1.9% and the board has determined that accordingly a 2% increase will be the limit of the levy increases. Furthermore, SADA subscriptions will remain at \$187.50 representing no increase in subscriptions for the year. The levy (annual cap) will move from \$2,162 to \$2,205 and the levy rate per kilogram of protein (Inc GST) will move from \$0.02830 to \$0.0288. The amount per cow/per quarter (Inc GST) will change from \$2.09 to \$2.13.

While increases are never welcome the SADA Board has been particularly mindful of the financial pressures farmers have been facing in the past couple of years and have sought to keep the impact of those pressures to a minimum.

**REMINDER: Please return your updated membership forms asap.**

## PM backs \$100 billion target for farm sector



Prime Minister Scott Morrison threw his support behind the National Farmers' Federation's (NFF) vision of a \$100 billion ag industry by 2030 in his address at the Bush Summit in Dubbo, NSW this week.

In a wide-ranging speech to the Summit, Mr Morrison addressed a number of burning issues faced by the agriculture industry and rural and regional communities.

He pledged to set up a new parliamentary committee to examine the future needs of rural and regional Australia and to pass the promised strengthened laws against on-farm intrusions within the fortnight.

The PM also highlighted his election commitment to provide \$10 million for ag education in urban schools, and strategies to boost economic resilience in drought-stricken communities.

In addition to Make it Cheaper providing free energy comparisons to you our members to save you time and money, they have a **prize draw to win \$500** running through winter.

Every member who uploads a copy of a recent energy bill between the 1st of June and the 9th of August will automatically go into the draw to win the \$500 gift card.

Don't hesitate to give SADA a call if you need any further assistance with any services that you may require.

**Upload your bill for a FREE  
energy comparison &**

Be in to WIN a

**\$500**

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NSW Licence Number: L198180484  
Full Terms and Conditions on [www.makeitcheaper.com.au/500giftcardprizedraw](http://www.makeitcheaper.com.au/500giftcardprizedraw)

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-  Farm Burglary and Theft
-  Motor Vehicle
-  Personal Legal Liability
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