



# WestVic Dairy Annual Report

2024-25



Delivering  
*for* Dairy









# Contents

About WestVic Dairy	2
About Western Victoria’s dairy industry	6
Message from the Chair	8
Message from the Regional Manager for Dairy Australia and Executive Officer to WestVic Dairy	9
Our people	10
Regional activities	11
Responding to critical issues	12
Enhancing farm business management	13
Managing climate and environment	15
Animal health and performance	16
Supporting employment and people development	18
Dairy discussion groups	22
Farm Engagement	24
Special event	25
Financial statements	26
Acknowledgements	37

# About WestVic Dairy

## Structure

Dairy Australia is the national services body for the Australian dairy industry. Dairy Australia invests in areas that strengthen farm business performance, drive innovation for the future and ensure a sustainable dairy industry.

Dairy Australia works closely with eight Regional Development Programs (RDPs) across Australia to advance the dairy industry.

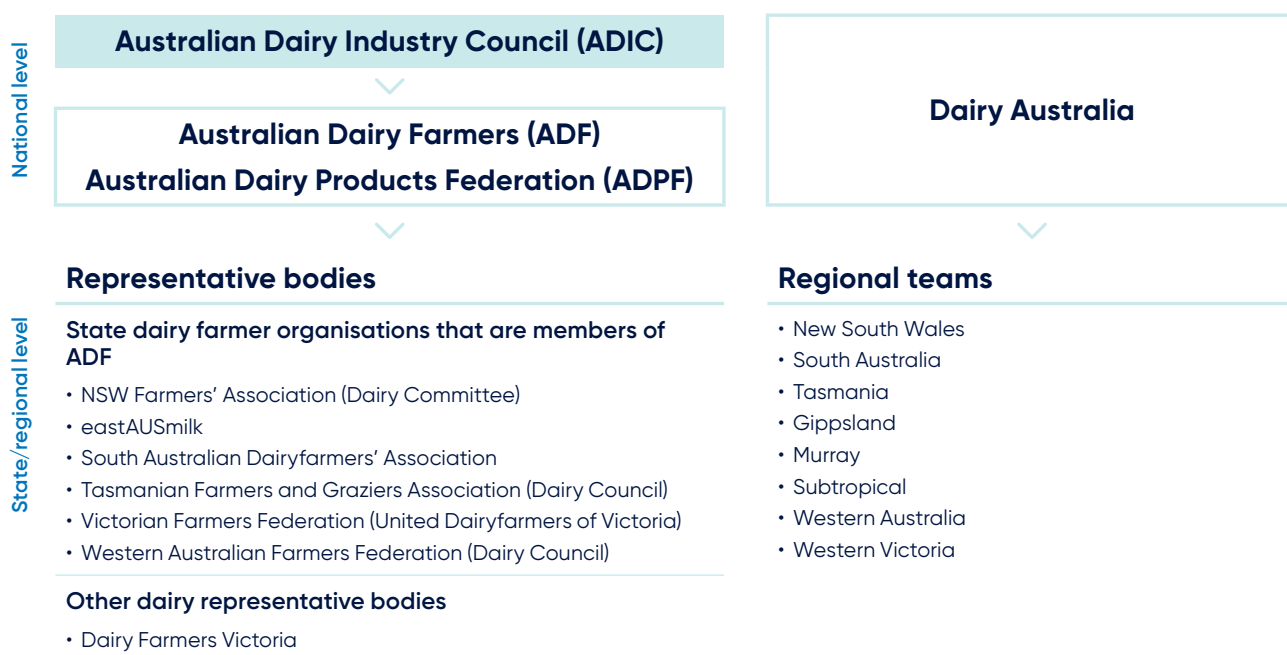
WestVic Dairy Inc. is the Regional Development Program for Western Victoria. In partnership with Dairy Australia, it delivers extension activities and programs that foster innovation, skills and sustainability. WestVic Dairy also supports the development of people and leadership in the dairy community and contributes to industry wide strategic and resource planning. It works closely with local farmers and industry stakeholders to identify emerging needs and opportunities, address challenges, and promote the dairy industry across Western Victoria.

WestVic Dairy is governed by a regional Board of Directors, the majority being dairy farmers. The board works closely with Dairy Australia and local industry partners to strengthen and advance the local dairy industry.

Dairy Australia supports WestVic Dairy with funding and centralised administrative functions, which allows WestVic Dairy to focus on program planning and delivery. Through this collaboration with Dairy Australia, WestVic provides a wide range of services to stakeholders.

Both Dairy Australia and WestVic Dairy are precluded by their charter from agri-political activity, which is the role of representational bodies, such as Australian Dairy Farmers and its affiliates. However, a considerable amount of information and technical support is provided to these bodies for the development of the industry.

## The structure of Australian dairy industry organisations



## Collaboration

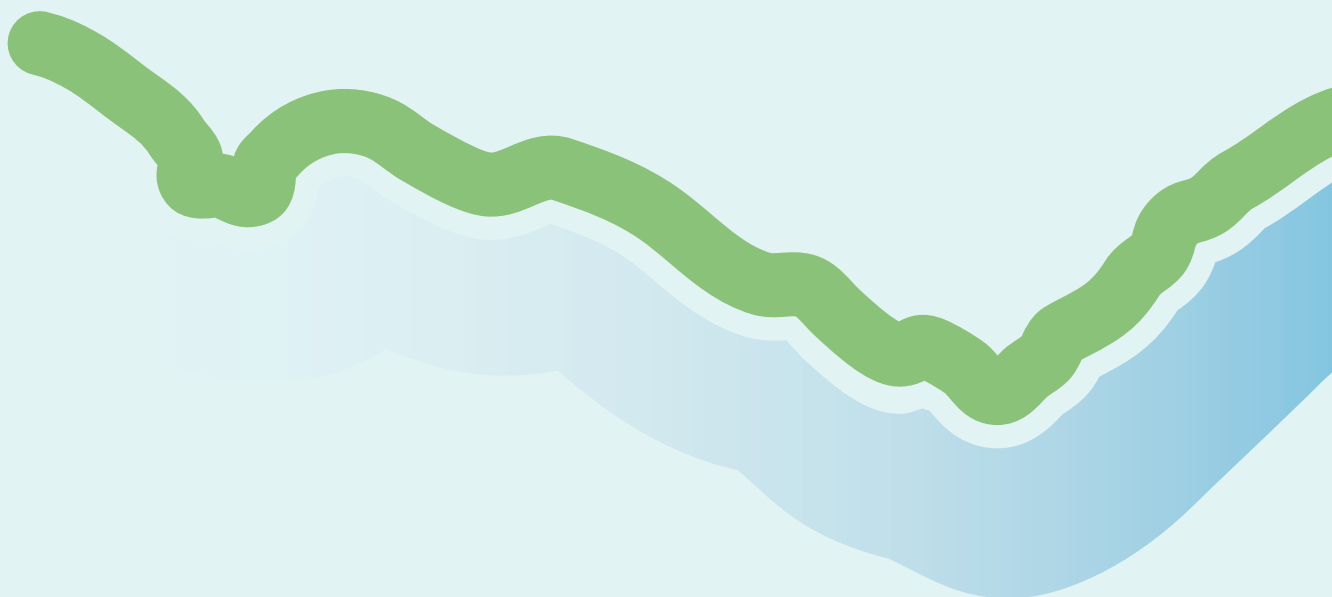
WestVic Dairy works collaboratively with a wide range of organisations and individuals to deliver its services to the industry. The dairy industry is a significant part of the regional economy and community and working with other stakeholders is a part of the way we operate.

Key organisations with which we work are:

- Agriculture Victoria
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- Dairy Farmers Victoria
- DemoDAIRY Foundation
- Food and Fibre Council Great South Coast
- Gardiner Foundation
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
- Local government
- Milk processing firms
- Regional Development Victoria
- The Rural Financial Counselling Service
- United Dairy Farmers Victoria.

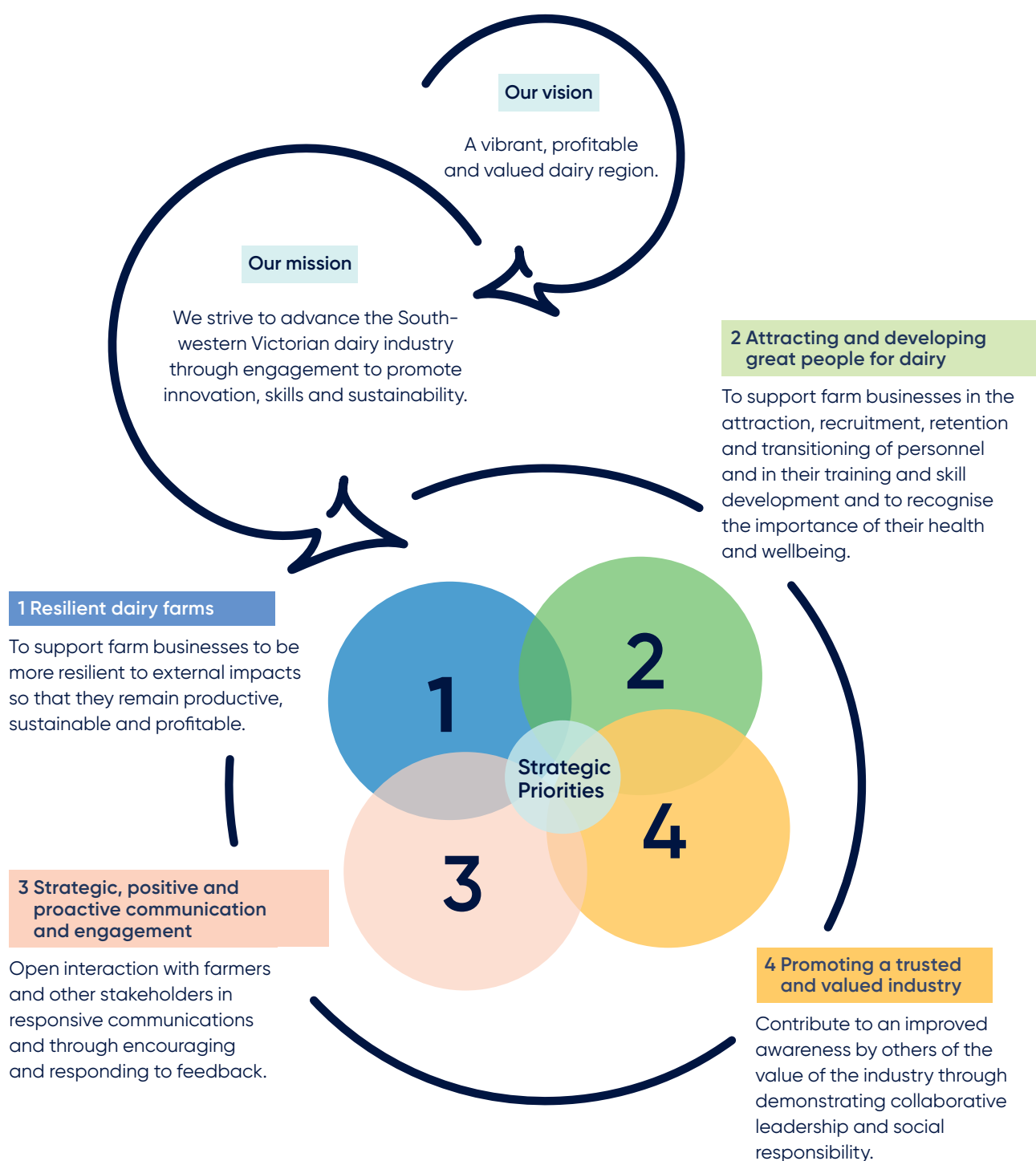
Numerous other agencies, educators and private sector service provider businesses are important part of this network. Much of this collaboration occurs informally through strong networks and formally through the regular meetings of the Southwest Dairy Industry Leadership Group.

WestVic Dairy is fortunate to have good input to operational planning from two advisory committees and a strong response to regular surveys on extension planning and performance. Considerable additional input on industry matters is provided by WestVic Dairy to the wider community on issues such as regional strategy and action plans, infrastructure, water, sustainability, skills and employment, and health and wellbeing.



# Strategic direction

In order to achieve our mission, our strategic priorities are:







# About Western Victoria's dairy industry

The Western Victorian dairy region extends west from Geelong to the South Australian border, with the largest concentration of farms around the coastal area between Simpson and Koroit.

It is currently Australia's second largest dairy producing region, producing almost two billion litres in 2024-25. This figure equates to about 22 per cent of Australia's milk volume. This year, Western Victoria dairy farmers continued to be impacted by the drought.



**280,000**  
Cows in milk and dry

**858**

Number of dairy farms



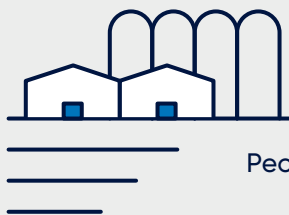
**\$1.3 million**

Value of milk leaving farms



**2,600**

People employed on farm  
(full time and part time)



**3,400**

People employed in processing  
(full time and part time)

**1,844**  
million litres

Volume of milk produced



**175**  
thousand litres

Volume of dairy products exported



**22%**

Share of national  
milk production



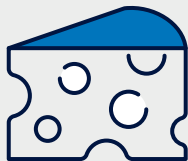
**22%**

Share of national  
dairy exports



**25%**

Share of national  
dairy exports



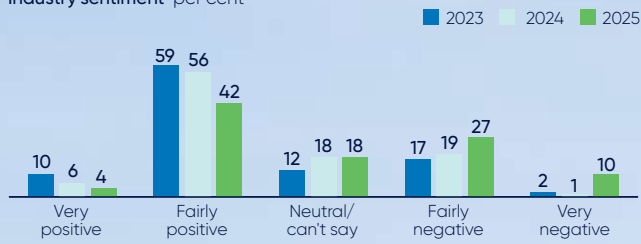
**\$792**  
million

Value of dairy  
products exported

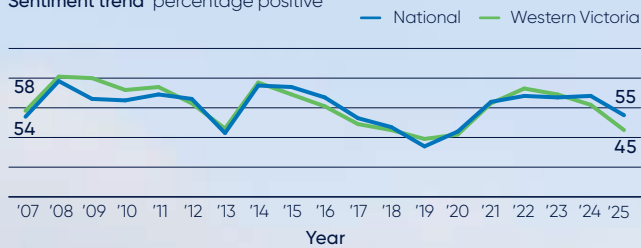


## Sentiment

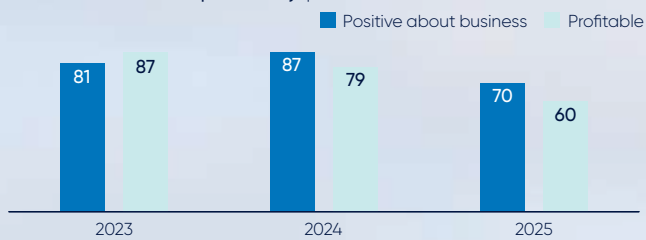
Industry sentiment per cent



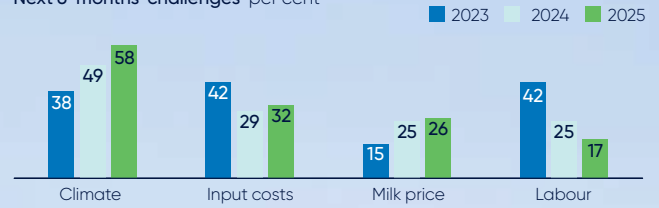
Sentiment trend percentage positive



Business sentiment vs. profitability per cent

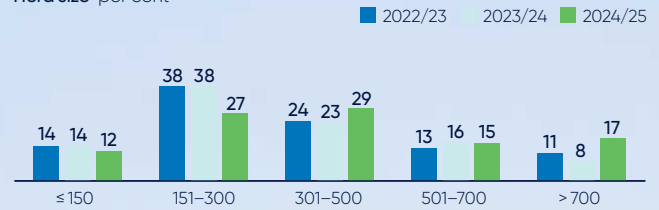


Next 6-months' challenges per cent

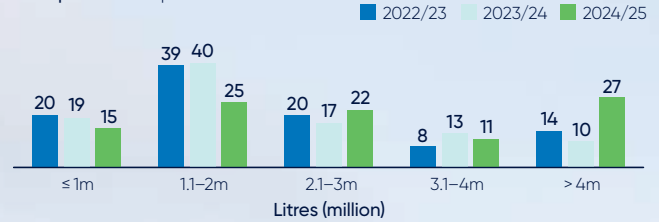


## Current herd size and production

Herd size per cent

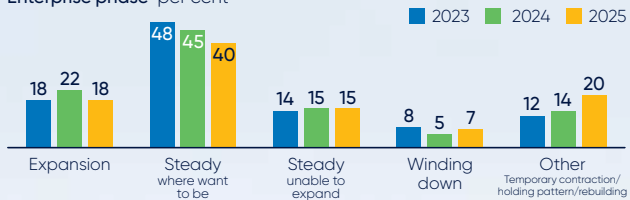


Herd production per cent



## Farm profile

Enterprise phase per cent



The 'average' Western Victorian farmer



- 93%** Impacted by extreme weather L12M
- 13%** Changed milk factory supplied
- 25%** Intend/desire to change milk factory

- 1.8t** Average tonnes fed per cow per year
- 469** Average herd size

# Message from the Chair

The 2024-25 financial year has been defined by the ongoing drought, and this has presented significant challenges for the region's dairy farmers. The most recent Dairy Australia Situation and Outlook report showed that 93 per cent of south-west farmers have been impacted by extreme weather events over the past 12 months, with most farmers identifying climate as the key challenge for the next six months.

WestVic Dairy's activities over the past year have been guided by the challenges of the drought conditions affecting the region. This year has highlighted the importance of our third strategic priority: strategic, positive and proactive communication and engagement. Strong collaboration and relationships with industry stakeholders allowed us to pull together our knowledge, align our efforts and coordinate the sharing of important information and resources with farmers. It has been pleasing to see the industry come together to support dairy farmers in this time.

In addition to regular extension programs delivered in line with the Annual Operating Plan, WestVic Dairy delivered drought specific support activities, often with funding from Agriculture Victoria, to whom we extend our thanks. In July 2024, the Tactics for Dry Times program was rolled out across the region, connecting farmers with practical resources and advice to support decision-making during the dry season. In February, we offered Review and Renew workshops focused on feed and fertiliser planning, and in April 2025, we partnered with Rural People Co. to deliver sessions on navigating drought impacts on both business and people. These programs were delivered across the east, central, and west of the region. In May the WestVic Dairy team reduced group extension activities to prioritise one-on-one farm visits, offering tailored support to farmers.

This year marks the midway point of our strategic plan and we are making progress across our priorities. Strategic priority two, attracting and developing great people for dairy is progressing well. We continue to promote dairy as a rewarding industry, utilising our positive relationships with learning institutions across the region. The Young Dairy Network continues to be an active and engaged group, embracing opportunities to grow their knowledge and leadership skills.

The Manager/2IC program held in September 2024 reached full capacity, with 30 young farmers participating to develop their farm management skills. Additionally, a focus on creating safe workplaces and raising awareness about mental health and wellbeing remains important.

The WestVic Dairy Board thanks the region's farmers who generously open their farm gates for events and activities, for contributing their time and valuable insights.

We extend our thanks to the continued generosity of the businesses and organisations who sponsor many regional activities and events. We are especially grateful to the Gardiner Foundation and DemoDAIRY Foundation for their ongoing support, particularly in initiatives aimed at developing our next generation of dairy farmers. This year, we also acknowledge the Victorian Government's response to the drought.

The WestVic Dairy Board thanks the WestVic Dairy staff for their efforts and commitment to supporting our region's farmers. In particular, we acknowledge Regional Manager and Executive Officer Lindsay Ferguson, whose leadership, knowledge, and care for both dairy farmers and the industry has guided the organisation successfully for nearly a decade.

I would also like to thank my fellow directors for their contributions and collaboration throughout the year. A special mention goes to Rhonda Henry who will step down at this year's AGM. Having served as Treasurer for most of her eight-year tenure, Rhonda's guidance and expertise have been invaluable.

Finally, our first strategic priority of supporting farm businesses to become more resilient to external impacts, remains central to our mission. This focus continues to shape our programs and initiatives, helping farms remain productive, sustainable, and profitable in the face of ongoing challenges.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Rea'.

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**Brendan Rea**  
WestVic Dairy Chair

# Message from the Regional Manager for Dairy Australia and Executive Officer to WestVic Dairy

This last twelve months has been testing for not only primary producers, but the whole rural community and especially anyone doing business in the agricultural supply chain. This drought has set records. It has also highlighted the inherent climatic risk in agriculture and the fact that those in the game need to be very resilient and flexibly adjust plans to meet the conditions.

Making good farm business decisions needs useful and timely information – market data, weather data and scientific production data. With ever-increasing amounts of information being derived from research and development, combined with technology applications, it is a demanding job to manage a dairy farm well. Our role is to bring that information to you at the farm level and where appropriate, help you adopt it.

Our business plan has been designed with valuable input from farmers and other stakeholders and for that we thank you. We also get good input from the technical experts at Dairy Australia and good oversight by the WestVic Dairy Board. In this extraordinary year of 2024-25, we needed to be flexible and in May we scaled back our extension activity and refocused our attention on one-on-one, farm visits – calling in on each farm in the region. Our farmers have appreciated the tangible technical notes; the referral advice; and being able to have a listening ear. The visits have given our team a new respect for the resilience of dairy farmers.

Our professional staff regularly update their knowledge in technical areas as well as practise the soft skills of improved communication and facilitation techniques. It provides a lot of job satisfaction for us when we see farmers using information that we have provided, to benefit their businesses and the people in it. Our regular programs continue to run strongly and we see great enthusiasm by our region's younger cohort, as they participate in Young Dairy Network activities. We also see good peer to peer learning amongst people from all ages in the ever-popular discussion groups.

We are fortunate to have such experienced and capable staff here in the south-west and I sincerely thank them all for their efforts during the year. Our staff profile remained steady with Michelle Seabrook spending the year on parental leave. The Board's support for our team has been invaluable, led by its chair, Brendan Rea. He has shown strong leadership, contributing considerable additional time to perform his role. We also receive support from other regions and colleagues in Dairy Australia, which is appreciated and reflects our *One Team* value. We have also had good support during the year from Juanita Paul, in the new role of Regional Services Manager at Dairy Australia.

Many thanks to our sponsors, industry partners and to all our region's farmers for your participation in our extension activities and involvement in our farm engagement program. We appreciate the feedback and information you provide, as that helps sharpen our work. Suggestions or comments on what we do are always welcome.

This year I say farewell, as after nearly a decade in this role I am retiring. Ever since I learnt to milk in my youth and then studied dairy farm management, I've been fascinated by this dynamic and demanding industry. It has provided me with considerable challenges, but also provided me with great experiences and a good number of friends. I trust you all remain positive and prosper as the industry continues to evolve.



**Lindsay Ferguson**  
Dairy Australia Regional Manager  
and WestVic Dairy Executive Officer



# Our people

## WestVic Dairy Board

The Board sets WestVic Dairy's strategic direction and oversees investment decisions, priorities and goals across both strategic and operational plans.

- **Brendan Rea** Chair  
Dairy farmer, Allansford
- **Will McDonald** Vice Chair  
Dairy farmer, Bessiebelle
- **Ella Credlin** Treasurer since 4 February 2025  
Dairy farmer, Ecklin South
- **Lucy Collins** Farmer Director  
Dairy farmer, Dixie
- **Rhonda Henry** Specialist Director  
Treasurer until 21 January 2025  
Service Provider, South-west Victoria
- **Mike Huth** Specialist Director  
Service Provider, Ridley  
Retired 8 October 2024
- **Ulke de Kleine** Farmer Director  
Dairy farmer, Pirron Yallock
- **Brooke Lane** Farmer Director  
Dairy Farmer, Alvie
- **Bruce Officer** Specialist Director  
Service Provider, Victoria and Tasmania
- **Jacqueline Suares** Farmer Director  
Dairy Farmer, Colac  
Retired 8 October 2024

## WestVic Dairy Team

The WestVic Dairy team is responsible for implementing the Annual Operating Plan to achieve the organisation's mission. Staff employed during 2024-25 were:

- **Lindsay Ferguson**  
Regional Manager for Dairy Australia and Executive Officer to WestVic Dairy
- **Libby Swayn**  
Extension Team Lead
- **Sheeraz Ahmad**  
Extension Coordinator – Farm Business Management
- **Sam Andrews**  
Farm Engagement Lead
- **Emma Collins**  
Administration and Workforce Attraction Coordinator
- **Liza Fahey**  
Project Coordinator
- **Peter Gaffy**  
Farm Engagement Lead
- **Amanda Heard**  
Project Support Coordinator
- **Jacinta Langdon**  
Workforce Attraction Project Lead
- **Aylish Tobin-Salzman**  
Communications Coordinator
- **Debbie Twiss**  
Extension Advisor – Animal Health and Performance
- **Matt Wood**  
Extension Advisor – Workforce



An aerial photograph of a dirt road winding through a lush green landscape. Several black and white cows are scattered along the road, some standing and some grazing. The surrounding area is filled with dense green trees and vegetation, creating a vibrant, natural setting.

# Regional activities

The following details the range of key extension activities run during the 2024-25 financial year. These are scheduled across the region at seasonally relevant times and according to demand.

This year we delivered 145 regional activities and events, with 3,275 participants.

Our extension activities deliver value by enhancing farm business management, supporting employment and people development, driving herd and feed innovation, managing climate and environment, advancing industry sustainability, and responding to critical issues.



# Responding to critical issues

Providing dairy farmers with timely information and resources to navigate critical issues and events such as droughts, floods and bushfires.

WestVic Dairy adapted its Annual Operating Plan to deliver targeted drought support, helping farmers access timely information and resources during worsening seasonal conditions. In partnership with the Dairy Industry Leadership Group and supported by Agriculture Victoria's Drought Support Package, a series of extension activities were delivered across the region.

## Tactics for Dry Times

Four seminars held across the region in July and August focused on animal health, agronomy, business management and mental wellbeing. Presenters included a Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria West representative, a local agronomist, agribusiness consultant and Extension Advisor Debbie Twiss. Debbie focused on practical advice to assist farmers improve their capacity to support herd and reproductive health during dry conditions. Each presenter emphasised the importance of whole-of-business assessment, early decision-making and open communication with service providers, banks and suppliers to avoid short-term fixes with long-term consequences.



## Review and Renew

Held in February in Macarthur, Allansford and Colac, this workshop helped farmers prepare for the autumn break. The Review and Renew workshops brought together local agronomists, nutritionists and Debbie to discuss the best options for feed planning and pasture recovery.

## How to get your business through the drought

In April Cath and Adam Jenkins from Rural People Co, led a practical workshop where farmers could create their own personalised plan to better manage their farm in dry conditions. The workshop focused on building resilience and practical strategies for navigating the drought.

## One-to-one visits

As workshop attendance declined due to on-farm pressures, WestVic Dairy shifted focus to individual farm visits. WestVic Dairy visited approximately 500 farmers in the 2024-25 financial year. These visits helped farmers access government support and Dairy Australia's drought resources, ensuring those most in need received tailored assistance. Farm visits to offer drought support have continued into the 2025-26 financial year.

## The South-west Dairy Industry Leadership Group

Established in 2016 by the Victorian Government in response to the dairy price downturn, the region's Dairy Industry Leadership Group, continues to play a pivotal role in coordinating support services for dairy farmers and industry stakeholders.

Members include the dairy farmer representative bodies (Dairy Farmers Victoria and United Dairyfarmers of Victoria), Agriculture Victoria, Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria West, WestVic Dairy, milk processors, local government, relevant Commonwealth government agencies and local health care services.

This year the group continued to work collaboratively behind the scenes with its members delivering their respective services to ensure drought support was available to dairy farmers. This unified approach ensured that support was responsive and well targeted.



# Enhancing farm business management

Providing dairy farmers with access to business planning and risk management tools and insights to support farm decision making and improve profitability.

Extension Coordinator Sheeraz Ahmad, facilitates farm business management activities across the region.

## Our Farm Our Plan

Since its 2020 launch, this national program has helped over 1,400 farmers set long-term goals. In 2024–25, 40 farmers in the WestVic Dairy region progressed their farm and personal plans.

## Farm Business Fundamentals

Delivered in Cobden and Allansford, this two-day program supported farmers to build financial confidence using the Dairy Standard Chart of Accounts and the Dairy Cash Budgeting tool. There were two nationally run workshops available to farmers online.

## Dairy Farm Business Analysis

In December, farmers attended a three-day workshop in Cobden focused on interpreting farm financial and physical performance using Dairy Australia's DairyBase tool. Participants gained insights into their farm businesses cashflow and profitability, enabling more strategic business decisions to build wealth. In addition, three national online versions were available.

## Creating Wealth Workshops

Held in Warrnambool in August, one workshop was tailored for young dairy farmers and new entrants, and another for established dairy businesses. Facilitated by New Zealand agribusiness consultants Lynaire Ryan and Paul Bird, the workshops focused on practical strategies to grow both personal and business wealth.

The workshops offered the participants the opportunity to step back from day-to-day operations and reflect on their long-term goals. These events were proudly sponsored by Dairy Australia, DemoDAIRY Foundation and the Gardiner Foundation, with support from the McLaren Hunt Financial Group.

## Industry update events

WestVic Dairy hosted regular events to share market insights and support services.

## Dairy Farm Monitor Breakfast

In November, a Warrnambool Business Breakfast co-hosted with Agriculture Victoria showcased findings from the 2023–24 Dairy Farm Monitor Project Report. Presenters shared regional performance data and dry season support initiatives, and attendees had the opportunity to ask questions.

## Business Breakfasts and Dinners

Eliza Redfern, Dairy Australia Analysis and Insights Manager presented key information from the latest Situation and Outlook Report in June, highlighting market trends and profitability drivers for 2025–26. A panel discussion explored drought impacts and available support, with input from Agriculture Victoria, Rural Financial Counselling Service, the South-west Victoria Dairy Industry Leadership Group and WestVic Dairy.

Two business breakfasts in Warrnambool and dinners in Koroit and Colac for farmers and service providers offered updates on industry conditions and the opportunity for networking and national dairy trend discussions.



# Business Focus Farm

## Bostocks Creek

### About the Focus Farm program

The Focus Farm program centres around farming families and enterprises. It assists Focus Farmers to achieve their stated goals during a defined period in which they are supported by a WestVic Dairy team member and a support group made up of farmers and service providers.

### Focus Farm snapshot

**Farmers** Peter and Marnie Kerr

**Facilitator** Sheeraz Ahmad, Extension Coordinator

**Consultant** Paul Groves, Farm Management Consultant

**Farm size** Usable area 280ha, Milking 212ha, Leased 113ha

Peter and Marnie Kerr entered the second phase of the Focus Farm program, extended for another two years. After purchasing their farm in 2022, they acquired an additional block in 2024, an important step in their growth journey.

The Kerrs are pursuing ambitious goals, guided by the Focus Farm support group.

### Business goals and progress

The Focus Farm has identified clear goals to improve farm productivity, sustainability, and work-life balance over the 2024–2026 period.

- **Upgrading water infrastructure and fencing**  
Key infrastructure upgrades include improved water access to leased blocks and a new dam pump system, alongside new fencing and paddock reconfigurations to support efficient grazing and calving.
- **Improving labour efficiency and team wellbeing**  
Labour efficiency remains a priority, with ongoing systems improvements. A structured roster allows regular time off for the team. Better on-farm signage and mapping has made communication clearer and faster on the farm saving time and costly mix ups.
- **Achieving top-quartile pasture consumption and earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) per ha benchmarks set by Dairy Farm Monitor Report**  
Drought conditions have negatively impacted pasture production. The farm's pasture consumption for the 2024–25 season was 4t per ha. EBIT per ha for the 2024–25 season was \$444. When Dairy Farm Monitor Report benchmarks are released for the 2024–25 season the Kerrs will review results to see how the farm has performed in comparison to other farms in the region.
- **Reduce debt by \$120,000 annually**  
The Kerrs had been making monthly repayments of \$10,000 for the past two years to work towards their debt reduction goal. The drought has made this level of debt reduction unachievable this year.
- **Develop environmental and risk management strategies for long term sustainability**  
Peter and Marnie have calculated the farm's carbon footprint and are working to develop an effluent and nutrient management plan and begin tree planting using farm mapping tools.

With the guidance of the support group and the commitment of Peter and Marnie, good progress is being made across key areas of the farm business.





# Managing climate and environment

Delivering initiatives for efficiency of dairy farm inputs, such as water and energy, and supporting actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Team Lead Libby Swayn facilitates and delivers the managing climate and environment extension activities in the region.



## FertSmart

Delivered in Allansford with collaboration from the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, the program upskills farmers to better understand soil properties and nutrient management. Participants received five soil tests and a comprehensive nutrient management plan, prepared by an independent consultant. Two of the four days were held in the 2024–25 financial year with the third day delivered in early July and the final day scheduled for December. FertSmart is funded through the Australian Governments Natural Heritage Trust program.

## Understanding Farm Carbon

Six workshops were held across the region to support farmers to better understand the drivers of greenhouse gas emissions and take proactive steps to measure and reduce their carbon footprint. The workshops covered the implications of mandatory climate related risk reporting legislation on the supply chains. Following the workshop, farmers had the option of a follow up one-to-one session to identify and support specific needs.

The workshops were delivered with funding support from the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, as part of the Carbon Farming Outreach Program.

## Farm Environmental Tracker

This online tool helps farmers assess current environmental practices of their dairy farm business to identify opportunities for improvements in energy, effluent, chemical use and biodiversity. Two workshops were held to support farmers to work through the tool and create a farm specific action plan. The tool allows for benchmarking sustainability performance against other dairy farms and for a year-on-year comparison of the business to monitor changes. The workshops were delivered in partnership with Saputo.

## Grounds for Growth

Held in Warrnambool in March, Dairy Australia's inaugural Grounds for Growth conference supported farmers with adopting multi-species pastures and other practices to improve soil health and function.

The three-day event included a farm tour and two days of the soil and pasture biodiversity conference.

Dairy farmers from across Australia attended to gain practical knowledge from local and international biodiversity experts and hear from farmers already using multi-species pastures and other biodiverse practices.

A highlight was the visit to Simon Scott's family farm at Barongarook West to see how regenerative agriculture farming practices are simplifying their farming system.

International speakers included Dr John Finn from Teagasc in Ireland and Irish dairy farmer Gillian O'Sullivan, on their farming experiences with multispecies pastures.





# Animal health and performance

Delivering services that support dairy farmers in improving management of milk quality, calf health, fertility, welfare and nutrition in their dairy herds.

Extension Advisor Debbie Twiss facilitates and delivers the animal health and performance extension activities in the region, with many farm businesses engaging her directly to deliver Dairy Australia animal health resources and training.

Debbie spent two weeks this year in New South Wales, supporting farmers with Rearing Healthy Calves Fundamentals and Rearing Healthy Calves in Practice. Farmers also received support with Cool Cows, First 100 Days research and Transition Cow Management.

This year South-west Victoria participants engaged in the below extension activities, gaining knowledge and sharing practical skills to support herd health under challenging seasonal conditions.

## Milking & Mastitis Management

Five workshops were delivered to refresh farmers' knowledge and practical skills to: identify, treat and reduce the risk of mastitis; understand best practice for milking routine; and manage milk plant hygiene to support good milk quality on farm.

## Downer Cows

Held in Kirkstall in September, this hands-on workshop focused on nursing care, safe lifting techniques, and the prevention of secondary damage, referencing research by Dr Phil Poulton.

## Cool Cows

In December, farmers in Hawkesdale explored nutritional and physical strategies to mitigate the risk of heat stress in dairy cows. Resources were shared on heat stress management for both milking and dry cows. The workshop addressed practical approaches to maintain feed intake, milk production, fertility, and animal welfare during periods of high temperature.

## Transition Cow Management

Delivered in June as part of Dairy Australia's drought support series, this webinar provided practical guidance on metabolic disease and down cow care during calving.

## Nutrition Fundamentals

A Nutrition Fundamentals program concluded with a field-based session in Jancourt East (July) and a session was run in Colac (March). This program provides foundational knowledge in cow nutrition, feed budgeting and profitability, and serves as a pathway to the Advanced Nutrition in Action program. Consultant Pip Gale supported participants in calculating nutritional requirements for production and assessing pasture availability.

## Rearing Healthy Calves

Three practical on-farm workshops provided both new and experienced dairy farmers with an opportunity to see how other farmers support calf growth, health and productivity. Small group discussion sessions were delivered to farm teams to facilitate a review of farm practices around heat detection and hoof care.



## Supporting herd fertility and hoof health on farm

Small group discussion sessions were delivered to farm teams to facilitate a review of farm practices around heat detection and hoof care.



# Supporting employment and people development

Creating awareness of dairy farming careers, providing support in employing and managing people and developing skills for successful careers.

## Workforce Attraction and Retention

Dairy Australia's national Workforce Attraction and Retention program ran until September 2024, led locally by Jacinta Langdon. Highlights included over one million career website visits, 500 job posts on the Dairy Jobs Board, and strong engagement with farmers and industry networks. The program transitioned to business-as-usual with three People Experience Leads now supporting candidate attraction and retention across multiple regions. Locally, Emma Collins, Project and Workforce Attraction Coordinator, supports Ella Dixon, People Experience Lead, one day per week. WestVic Dairy continues to represent the industry across schools, agencies and career networks.

## Career awareness and engagement

WestVic Dairy places a strong emphasis on increasing awareness of career opportunities among school students and job seekers. Despite seasonal challenges limiting student placements, WestVic Dairy maintained strong partnerships with:

- Neil Porter Legacy Foundation
- South West Local Learning and Employment Network
- South West TAFE
- Cows Create Careers
- AgFutures
- Employment agencies and schools
- Warrnambool Career Teachers Network
- Westvic Staffing Solutions
- Brophy – Waves to Work
- Rotary – Defying the Drift program.

Activities included school visits, farm tours, career expos, and mentoring across more than 20 events.



## Labour challenges and support

Attracting and retaining skilled labour has been one of the most significant issues facing dairy farmers in recent times. While jobseeker interest is slightly rising, filling skilled farmhand and management roles remains difficult. Farmers increasingly rely on overseas workers, both sponsored and backpackers. WestVic Dairy has responded to this need and supports visa-related events. Matt Wood, Extension Advisor, provides one on one support to dairy farmers, providing many with detailed information on the Dairy Industry Labour Agreement (DILA) and the Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA). Serving as an important first call for farmers as they embark on the sponsorship process.





## Employment resources and compliance

Workshops, online programs and practical tools supported farmers in meeting their employment obligations and improving workforce management.

Fewer in-person events were held this year due to shifting priorities with the drought. Workshops including 'Paying a Flat Rate' in Timboon in September assisted farmers to understand wage options and use the resources available on The People in Dairy (TPID) website.

WestVic Dairy supported the development of several downloadable resources on TPID, including:

- Share Dairy Farming in Australia; Model Code of Practice
- Leasing Dairy Assets resource pack
- Shared Equity Arrangements resource
- Farm Safety Starter Kit
- Farm Safety Manual
- Employment Starter Kit initiative (ESKi).

These resources are widely used and regularly updated with changes to National Employment Standards and the Pastoral Award. WestVic Dairy shares updates with farmers via newsletters and social media.

WestVic Dairy supported and promoted online programs delivered by Dairy Australia, including Farming with My Team, Employment Basics and Employment Basics Express. These were offered to all farmers nationally.

## Enhancing Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Experiences in Dairy

Funded by the Gardiner Dairy Foundation, this initiative supports farmers engaging culturally and linguistically diverse staff. This initiative was developed and launched this year. Resources include a handbook and workbook that support conversations and practical actions that improve outcomes for employees and their employers. This program is delivered one-on-one by Extension Advisor Matt Wood.

## Farmer health and safety

Supporting farmer wellbeing and safety remained a key focus for WestVic Dairy, particularly in response to the pressures of ongoing drought conditions.

To promote mental health awareness, WestVic Dairy promoted and attended the Wellbeing Break event, funded by Agriculture Victoria, which encouraged farmers to prioritise their own wellbeing and that of their teams. In July, an open Lakes and Craters Discussion Group meeting offered a social setting for the region's farmers to come together. Corangamite Councillor Jo Beard highlighted the importance of farmers looking after their mental health and signposted to support services.

From January to April, Dairy Australia partnered with The Resilience Project to deliver a wellbeing and resilience series via WestVic Dairy's fortnightly newsletter.

Farm safety also remained a priority with one-to-one support proving the most effective. Farmers can access this service directly or through interactions with Farm Engagement Leads and the Extension team.

## Manager/2IC development

Delivered by consultant Adam Jenkins and funded by the DemoDAIRY Foundation, this four-day program focused on people and business management. The program supports farmers looking to upskill employees for business expansion or improved work-life balance. It also offers motivated staff the opportunity to build their skills and knowledge. The program was capped at 30 participants; it will run twice in 2025-26 due to high demand.

## One-to-one extension

One-to-one extension often results in higher rates of practice change. Once again, many farm businesses accessed this service this year. Topics discussed were varied, and included contracts and pay rates, farm safety, farm policy development, employee management and succession planning. This one-to-one assistance is an extremely valuable service to the region's farmers, and a highly effective form of extension.

## WestVic Dairy Young Dairy Network

Supporting young people in dairy through education, connection and leadership and skills development.

The YDN is coordinated by Project Coordinator Liza Fahey and driven by a passionate Leadership Team. This collaborative structure ensures that activities remain relevant and responsive to industry needs.

### 2024-25 Leadership Team

The Leadership Team played a key role in planning and delivering YDN activities, including event coordination, hosting and promotion. We thank the following members for their contributions:

- **Chloe Brown** – Farm Owner, Kirkstall
- **Zoe Greenslade** – Share Farmer, Peterborough
- **Max Bond** – Farm Employee, Cooriemungle
- **Billy Buckingham** – Farm Employee, Jancourt East
- **Sam Kermond** – Farm Employee, Nullawarre
- **Gregor Mews** – Farm Employee, Koroit
- **Pip Bruce** – Nutritionist, Colac (stood down January 2025)
- **Rachael McGrath** – Farm Manager, Orford (stood down March 2025).

Their leadership and enthusiasm have been instrumental in the success of YDN events and initiatives.

Despite drought conditions impacting farm operations, the YDN remained committed to providing opportunities for connection and learning.

### Event highlights

#### Field Day: Concentrating on Concentrates

In July, members toured the CopRice facility in Cobden, led by YDN Leader and nutritionist Pip Bruce. The session explored feed production, ration formulation and seasonal strategies.

#### Field Day: Perfecting your Pastures

Held at the Webber and Chivell farm in Jancourt East, this September event focused on pasture management, green chop benefits and drainage projects. YDN Leader Emily Walsh shared grazing strategies.

#### Field Day: Getting into Farm Business Ownership

Hosted at the Kermond family farm, this session explored pathways to ownership. YDN Leaders Sam and Zoe shared experiences, with succession insights from Extension Advisor Matt Wood.

#### Trivia Night 2024

Held at Allansford Football Netball Club, the night raised funds for Need for Feed and Blaze Aid. Sponsored by Proud to be a Dairy Farmer, the event featured eight quiz rounds and a lively crowd. Thanks to Quizmaster Jason Smith and MC Kris Seabrook.

#### YDN Dairy Farmers Ball

A major highlight of the year was the Dairy Farmers Ball in November. Held in support of the Neil Porter Legacy Foundation, the event raised \$6,500 for the Neil Porter Legacy Foundation. Highlights included live music, a raffle sponsored by Lely, with Renee Mugavin winning the prize of a farm tour trip to the Netherlands. Special thanks to auctioneer Jack Kelly of J & J Kelly Stock Agency Pty Ltd and the events sponsors.

#### Christmas Planning Night

Held at the Hampden Hotel, this relaxed event brought together members to share ideas for 2025.

#### Barefoot Bowls Night

In response to drought stress, members gathered at Colac Bowls Club for a casual evening of connection and barbecue.

#### Happy Hour with Gavin: Sustainability in Irish Dairy

Led by YDN Leader Gregor Mews, Gavin Hunt shared insights into climate-neutral dairy systems in Ireland, sparking discussion on local applications.

#### Trivia Night 2025

Held in May at Cobden Football Ground, quiz master Tom Newton led rounds on dairy, pop culture and more. The event offered a much-needed break during a challenging season.





*Young Dairy Network Leadership Team with Project Coordinator Liza Fahey at the Dairy Farmers Ball*



*Renee Mugavin pictured with Lely team at the Dairy Farmers Ball*



# Dairy discussion groups

Facilitated by WestVic Dairy staff, discussion groups provide opportunities for dairy farmers to share experiences, learn and socialise. The value of peer learning remains a key strength of these groups.

Discussion group members continue to value these gatherings as vital opportunities to share knowledge, strengthen community ties, and support one another, particularly through this challenging dry season.

## Ballarat discussion group

The Ballarat Discussion Group met seven times (four on-farm and three off-farm) to explore a wide range of practical and strategic topics. The year began with a hands-on workshop at Yendon reviewing treatment of lame cows, followed by a candid lunchtime Q&A with Dairy Australia. A September dinner at Café Learmonth provided a relaxed social catch-up, complete with a cow jokes shared by younger attendees.

In December, the group visited Christian College's Backcreek Farm to see how students are introduced to agriculture in a supportive environment. February's dinner in West Delacombe focused on strategies for early lactation from the First 100 days Feedbase research project. In April, the group toured Meredith Dairy to learn about sustainable sheep and goat dairying, hosted by Sandy and Julie Cameron.

May's meeting returned to Yendon to explore the Farm System Evaluator tool with Dairy Australia advisors Alicia Richters and India Brockman, helping the host farm assess feed pad options. The year concluded with a June dinner in Ballarat, where drought support resources were shared.

## Colac and district discussion group

The Colac and District Discussion Group held four standalone events this year, alongside participation in several regional activities. Attendance and event engagement has grown steadily across the year.

In September, Tim and Tracey Beswicke hosted a field day sharing their journey from employee to sharefarmers and now to farm ownership. After a dry autumn the topic of discussion was maximising homegrown fodder with spring fertiliser applications and summer cropping options.

In February the group visited Paul Hodgson and Kaye Mirtschin's biodynamic farm in Carlisle River. Paul and Kaye have been farming following biodynamic principles for more than 30 years. Biodynamic farming is a method of organic farming that uses traditional techniques and focuses on creating a healthy soil. The session explored the importance soil structure development plays in maintaining biodynamic certification.

Two dinner meetings in April and June focused on Dairy Australia research. The April meeting covered the Dairy Feedbase First 100 Days Project, and how the findings of the research could be used on farm. In June the discussion group met to hear about the Calf Pathways project from Dr Andy Hancock, Dairy Australia's Sustainable Animal Care Manager. The presentation covered the dairy industries shifting focus toward a more sustainable and socially acceptable solution for surplus calves.



## Cooriemungle discussion group

Led by Luke and Susan Benson, the Cooriemungle Discussion Group meets monthly, with a mix of local farm visits, joint events and social activities. The group remained highly engaged throughout the year.

Farm visits included a trip to Sunday Ridge, the pasture based, automatic milking system farm located on the fringe of Simpson. Around 500 cows are milked by the Lely robots, with a compost barn enabling shelter from extremes of weather. A new feed pad was also under construction.

Teaming up with the Port Campbell Discussion Group allowed farmers to mix with different peers. A total of four joint meetings were held this year, with three of them farm visits. James Maxwell hosted an event showing the latest developments on farm following further investment by the group he manages for. Upgrades to the farm included a green site rotary dairy.

Garry and Lee Hibberd kindly hosted our joint Christmas evening barbeque, where they discussed their housed, total mixed ration system and new dairy. The final farm meeting of the year was a joint event at Fred and Jacinta Loveday's, where attendees saw first-hand the fantastic recent infrastructure upgrades, including a flood washed feed pad and steel framed compost barn.

Social events were a key focus during the drought, with barefoot bowls, pub dinners and the inaugural Cooriemungle vs Port Campbell Trivia Night providing much-needed connection and fun. The Trivia Night was won by Cooriemungle. The group looks forward to another interesting year of events ahead.



## Lakes and Craters discussion group

The Lakes and Craters group met six times this year, the most in the group's history. With the region hit particularly hard by the difficult drought conditions, the higher number of meetings allowed for vital connection and learning with their peers.

Four of the days were held on-farm, with two more social evening events at the local pub with strong attendance across all events.

Farm visits included:

- The Martin family, discussing profitable feeding and new cattle yards.

- The Lenehan farm, showcasing small-scale profitability.
- The Conlan family, sharing their journey into dairy from outside the industry.
- The Mahony farm, featuring seven new DeLaval robots milking 500 cows in a pasture-based system.

Attendance at this year's events was high for all sessions. With flexible scheduling and strong leadership, the group looks forward to going from strength to strength during the next financial year.

## Port Campbell Dairy discussion group

Monthly meetings and a Tasmania study tour helped farmers explore innovation, infrastructure and sustainability.

Supported by WestVic Dairy, the group tackled diverse topics including dairy shed design, biosecurity strategies, cost-effective infrastructure, feed systems and cropping options. Two joint sessions with the Cooriemungle Dairy Discussion Group strengthened regional collaboration.

A highlight of the year was a three-day study tour across Tasmania in February, visiting leading dairy farms and research facilities. Stops included high performing farms in Flowerdale and Edith Creek and a visit to Dalmore Dairies, where modern irrigation, strong herd management, and a focus on sustainability were evident. A visit to Ashgrove Dairy highlighted successful on-farm dairy manufacturing. The group also attended a networking dinner with local farmers and DairyTas board members, featuring valuable insights into Tasmania's dairy industry. The final day took the group to the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Dairy Research Facility at Elliott, where cutting-edge research on pasture management, nitrogen reduction, and sustainable practices was shared. The tour was supported by the DemoDAIRY Foundation and WestVic Dairy.

Throughout the year, the group also addressed challenges such as water security, energy costs, carbon management, milk price volatility and succession planning through farm walks, barbeques and other interactive sessions. The group is committed to continuous improvement and peer learning.

## Private discussion group

Three private discussion groups supported farmers with sensitive business topics.

The Central Farm Discussion Group, West Farm Discussion Group (west of Warrnambool), and Southwest Victorian Young Farmer Group (Terang) operated throughout the year. These groups offered safe, supportive environments for farmers to discuss succession planning, debt management, dry season budgeting and business development.

# Farm Engagement

Farm Engagement Leads (FELs) are helping farmers access the right support, resources and connections to meet their business and personal goals.

Further to the emphasis that WestVic Dairy has had on farmer engagement over the last eight years, Dairy Australia has now invested heavily in this activity to strategically provide a more tailored level of support to farmers. The FEL role ensures farmers receive support aligned with their business needs and life goals.

FELs Sam Andrews and Peter Gaffy have met regularly with farmers across the region, helping them identify priorities and connect them with relevant Dairy Australia and WestVic Dairy services. They also facilitate introductions to service providers and other farmers, creating valuable networks of support.

The FEL role also provides a direct channel for farmer feedback, helping shape future extension offerings and improve existing resources.





# Special event

## Ladies Luncheon 2024

The 2024 South West Dairy Ladies Luncheon brought together women from across the dairy industry for a sold-out event at Deakin University, Warrnambool. Now in its fourteenth year, the luncheon embraced the theme “Be Creative,” celebrating the talents and community spirit of women in dairy.

Keynote speaker Liz Ellis AO inspired attendees with insights on leadership, rural life and the role of sport in regional communities. A panel of local creatives shared stories of turning passion into purpose and the value of creativity in everyday life.

Delivered by a dedicated volunteer committee with support from WestVic Dairy, and long-time sponsors Westpac and the Gardiner Foundation, the event continues to grow in impact and reach.

We thank the Ladies Luncheon Committee for their time and dedication to ensuring the events' success.



# Financial statements

**For year ended 30 June 2025**

**WestVic Dairy (non-reporting) Inc. ABN 86 401 992 319**

Your Board members present the financial report of WestVic Dairy Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

## Board

The names of the Board members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

- **Brendan Rea** Chair
- **Will McDonald** Vice Chair
- **Rhonda Henry** Treasurer until 21st of January 2025
- **Michael Huth** Retired 8th of October 2024
- **Ulke de Kleine** Appointed 8th of October 2024
- **Bruce Officer**
- **Lucy Collins**
- **Brooke Lane**
- **Ella Credlin** Treasurer since the 4th of February 2025
- **Jacqueline Suares** Retired 8th of October 2024

## Principal activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year was as the Regional Development Program (RDP) for the Western Victorian dairy region, and the delivery of dairy extension activities and programs. There were no significant changes in the nature of these activities during the year.

## Significant changes in the state of affairs

Dairy Australia's Regional Development Programs (RDPs) are undergoing changes to better align with the organization's strategic priorities and address the evolving needs of the dairy industry. These changes, part of a broader evolution of the organization, aim to improve farmer engagement, streamline research and development (R&D) adoption, and ensure that local needs are met effectively .

No other significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

## Operating result

The surplus from ordinary activities for the financial year amounted to \$81,531 (2024: Deficit of \$76,722).

## After balance date events

Subsequent to 30 June, WestVic Dairy have appointed a consultant at the cost of \$100,000 in the following financial year. No other events have occurred where the impact is known.

Signed in accordance with a resolution from the board:



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**Brendan Rea** WestVic Chairperson

Dated at Warrnambool  
5 August 2025



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**Ella Credlin** WestVic Treasurer

Dated at Warrnambool  
5 August 2025

## Statement of income and expenditure

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Events	16,674	21,500
Interest received	50,212	28,742
Other income and refunds	349,326	262,791
Project income	227,268	139,687
Program funding	934,000	1,030,000
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,577,480</b>	<b>1,482,720</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Advertising and promotion	11,033	12,365
Amortisation	30,005	38,601
Audit and accounting fees	4,650	-
Bank charges	2,091	2,150
Board fees and development	36,071	37,682
Catering	10,678	12,580
Conferences	31,436	10,837
Contractors	88,501	164,338
Depreciation	4,546	4,692
Donations and gifts	16,126	25,955
Electricity and gas	8,483	5,937
Employee benefits expense charged	879,326	902,194
Extension costs	113,167	113,888
Insurance	5,219	14,348
Interest expense	11,158	4,086
Lab tests (soil, plant, animal)	2,244	2,709
Motor vehicle costs	152,393	100,910
Newspapers and magazines	706	773
Postage	6,378	8,243
Printing and stationery	18,916	11,583
Repairs and maintenance	5,828	6,241
Staff development	2,539	3,101
Subscriptions	5,286	2,220
Sundry	7,876	16,045
Telephone and technology	8,608	17,082
Tools and equipment	1,493	1,091
Travelling and accommodation	31,192	39,791
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,495,949</b>	<b>1,559,442</b>
<b>Surplus /(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>81,531</b>	<b>(76,722)</b>



## Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025	2024
ASSETS		\$	\$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	538,143	924,408
Financial assets		759,576	259,134
Trade and other receivables	3	170,024	73,163
Prepayments		2,235	3,001
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,469,978</b>	<b>1,259,706</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Leasehold improvements, plant and equipment	4	17,412	21,958
Right of use asset	5	260,043	290,048
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>277,455</b>	<b>312,006</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,747,433</b>	<b>1,571,712</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	34,466	20,446
Lease liabilities	7	27,315	27,315
Grants received in advance		160,490	55,054
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>222,271</b>	<b>102,815</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Lease liabilities	7	230,163	255,429
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>230,163</b>	<b>255,429</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>452,434</b>	<b>358,244</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,294,999</b>	<b>1,213,468</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings		1,046,247	964,716
Extension committee		8,752	8,752
Minimum reserve		240,000	240,000
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>1,294,999</b>	<b>1,213,468</b>

## Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Retained earnings	Extension Committee	Minimum reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 30 June 2023	1,041,438	8,752	240,000	1,290,190
Net result for the year	(76,722)	-	-	(76,722)
Balance at 30 June 2024	964,716	8,752	240,000	1,213,468
Net result for the year	81,531	-	-	81,531
Balance at 30 June 2025	1,046,247	8,752	240,000	1,294,999

## Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers		1,535,843	1,414,179
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,463,816)	(1,532,603)
Interest Received		50,212	28,742
GST received/(paid)		17,204	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	8	139,443	(89,682)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of investments		(500,442)	(4,960)
Net cash used in investing activities		(500,442)	(4,960)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Repayment of leases		(25,266)	(46,492)
Net cash (used in) financing activities		(25,266)	(46,492)
Net (decrease) in cash held		(386,265)	(141,134)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		924,408	1,065,542
Cash at end of financial year	2	538,143	924,408

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

### Note 1: Summary of Material Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (VIC) 2012. The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

#### (a) Accounts receivable and other receivables

Accounts receivables are recognised initially at the transaction price (i.e. cost) and are subsequently measured at cost less provision for impairment. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

At the end of each reporting period, the carrying amount of accounts receivable and other receivables are reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that the amounts are not recoverable. If so, an impairment loss is immediately recognised in the statement of income and expenditure.

#### (b) Accounts payable and other payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liabilities at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association that remain unpaid. Accounts payable are recognised at their transaction price. Accounts payable are obligations on the basis of normal credit terms.

#### (c) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise of cash on hand, demand deposits and short term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### (d) Revenue and other income

##### Operating Grants, Donations and Bequests

When the association receives operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the association:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement - recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations. Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations
- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from contract with customer)
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.



#### (e) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

#### (f) Leases

Leases of property, plant and equipment, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset (but not the legal ownership) are transferred to the association, are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for that period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease term. Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

#### (g) Employee benefits

All employee benefits, including annual leave and long service leave are held by Dairy Australia Limited.

#### (h) Economic dependence

WestVic Dairy Inc. is dependent on Dairy Australia for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report the Board has no reason to believe Dairy Australia will not continue to support WestVic Dairy Inc.

## Note 2 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
ANZ transaction account	234,220	261,965
ANZ cash management account	303,923	662,443
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>538,143</b>	<b>924,408</b>

## Note 3 Trade and other receivables

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Trade debtors	162,047	65,000
Other receivables	7,977	8,163
<b>Total trade and other receivables</b>	<b>170,024</b>	<b>73,163</b>

## Note 4 Leasehold improvements, plant and equipment

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Leasehold improvements at cost	45,000	45,000
Less accumulated depreciation	(27,588)	(23,076)
	<b>17,412</b>	<b>21,924</b>
Plant and equipment at cost	12,183	12,183
Less accumulated depreciation	(12,183)	(12,149)
	<b>-</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total leasehold improvements, plant and equipment</b>	<b>17,412</b>	<b>21,958</b>

## Note 5 Right of use assets

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Right of use asset - office	300,049	300,049
Less accumulated amortisation	(40,006)	(10,001)
<b>Total right of use assets</b>	<b>260,043</b>	<b>290,048</b>

## Note 6 Trade and other payables

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Trade payables	715	-
Other payables	25,367	7,465
Credit cards	8,384	12,981
<b>Total trade and other payables</b>	<b>34,466</b>	<b>20,446</b>

## Note 7 Lease liabilities

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Lease liability - office	27,315	27,315
<b>Non Current</b>		
Lease liability - office	230,163	255,429

## Note 8 Reconciliation of cash flow operations with surplus for the year

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Net result for the year	81,531	(76,722)
Non cash flows		
Depreciation	4,546	4,692
Amortisation	30,005	38,601
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(96,861)	25,789
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	766	(4,951)
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	14,020	(5,625)
(Decrease)/increase in grants received in advance	105,436	55,054
	<b>139,443</b>	<b>36,838</b>

## Note 9 Events occurring after the reporting date

Subsequent to 30 June, WestVic Dairy have appointed a consultant at the cost of \$100,000 in the following financial year. No other events have occurred which may impact future operations of the entity.

## Note 10 Association details

The registered office of the association is:  
WestVic Dairy Inc.  
5 Cressy Street  
Camperdown VIC 3260



## Statement by members of the board

For the year ended 30 June 2025

The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board the financial statements:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of WestVic Dairy Inc. as at 30 June 2025 and its performance for the year ended at that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that WestVic Dairy Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of management and is signed for and on behalf of the Board of management by:



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**Brendan Rea** WestVic Chairperson

Dated at Warrnambool  
5 August 2025



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**Ella Credlin** WestVic Treasurer

Dated at Warrnambool  
5 August 2025

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WESTVIC DAIRY INC.**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of WestVic Dairy Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies and statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the entity as at 30 June 2025, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (VIC) 2012*.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the committees' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (VIC) 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (VIC) 2012* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

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As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

#### **Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

*McLaren Hunt.*

**MCLAREN HUNT**  
**AUDIT AND ASSURANCE**

*N.L. McLEAN*

**N.L. McLEAN**  
**PARTNER**

Dated at Warrnambool, 06 August 2025

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# Acknowledgements

WestVic Dairy sincerely appreciates the support and financial assistance of many people and organisations. During 2024-25 we again worked closely with the Gardiner Foundation and the DemoDAIRY Foundation on several events and training opportunities. We particularly value their willingness to invest in the training and development of young dairy people in the region and we look forward to working together in the year ahead.

We would like to extend our thanks to:

- All dairy farmers in Western Victoria
- Agriculture Victoria
- Australian Dairy Farmers
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- Dairy Australia
- Dairy Farmers Victoria
- Deakin University, Warrnambool
- Food and Fibre Great South Coast
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
- United Dairyfarmers Victoria (UDV)
- The seven other Regional Development Programs across Australia: GippsDairy, Murray Dairy, DairySA, Western Dairy, DairyTAS, DairyNSW and SubTropical Dairy
- The milk processors that source Western Victorian milk
- The local shires: Corangamite Shire, Warrnambool City Council, Moyne Shire, Colac Otway Shire, Glenelg Shire, Surf Coast Shire, Southern Grampians Shire and those around Ballarat
- Local dairy farm consultants and service providers
- South West Local Learning and Employment Network
- RIST and South West TAFE
- VicWest Rural Financial Counselling Service
- Our sponsors of our major events and projects.



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**Disclaimer**

The content of this publication is provided for general information only and has not been prepared to address your specific circumstances. We do not guarantee the completeness, accuracy or timeliness of the information.

**Acknowledgement**

Dairy Australia acknowledges the funding from levy payers and contribution by Commonwealth Government.

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ISSN: 2652-2993 (Print)

ISSN: 2652-3000 (Online)