

22D042



17 June 2022

The Hon Blair Boyer  
Minister for Education, Training and Skills  
Per email: [Minister.Boyer@sa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Boyer@sa.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association, it was a pleasure to meet you and Josh Weidenbach to discuss some of the more pertinent challenges facing the South Australian dairy industry at present and what might be done through your portfolio responsibilities to mitigate some of these challenges.

The dairy industry, like many others is experiencing skilled worker shortages, ranging from relief milkers to "second-in-charge" and farm management, exacerbated by restrictions on the entry of backpackers due to COVID, noting that backpackers from a range of European countries such as Germany and Ireland often have dairy farm skills and experience not available in many other cohorts.

One issue continually raised both on farms and by supply chain members is that of workforce. For this reason, SADA has established a Workforce Committee which draws its membership from across the sector.

As discussed in our meeting, our key priorities are;

- To attract support and funding in the development of micro-credentials for critical skill sets required in the dairy industry. This might include the accreditation of courses recognised in other Australian jurisdictions. Micro-credentials would support the need for flexibility of training delivery and the need to be integrated with work practices and work requirements. SADA would like support and funding to develop and align with industry specific micro-credentials.
- To understand how to access the Skills Shortage Funding (Budget Initiative) to fund courses where industry has reported shortages, and the Skills and Training System (Budget Initiative) in skills outcomes for individuals, businesses, and industry.
- To promote the inclusion of agriculture into the school curriculum, whether this be through additional teaching staff and a dedicated subject or integrating agriculture into STEM subjects in both primary and secondary schools.



- To ensure the recognition and inclusion of agricultural apprenticeships and vocational pathways in the five new technical colleges. With the government's commitment to new technical colleges across the state, SADA would like to see pathway opportunities available for students and staff wanting to pursue agriculture and more specifically dairy and dairy related courses.

While we appreciate that you will be very busy in the near future, we would still like for you to have the opportunity to tour a dairy and processing facility to gauge insight into innovative technology, ranging from robotic milking to product traceability, being utilized and to hear from dairy representatives on their most important issues.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact our CEO, Andrew Curtis. Our contact details are listed below.

Yours sincerely

John Hunt  
President