

Members Newsletter

June 2025

Vol 66 #12



From the President

Robert Brokenshire

This month we welcomed the **Hon. Julie Collins MP, Federal Minister for Agriculture**, to South Australia. Her visit comes at a critical time for our dairy industry, as we grapple with one of the most severe droughts on record. The Minister's first stop was at our family farm on the Fleurieu Peninsula—a region as beautiful as it is battered by dry conditions.

This visit is a valuable opportunity to put dairy on the federal agenda. We'll be highlighting not only our region's leadership in innovation, traceability, and sustainability, but also the real and growing toll that this drought is taking on our farms, families, and communities. **Drought isn't just reducing production**—it's delaying progress, eating into profitability, and threatening the viability of even our most efficient operations.

At the same time, the release of **2025–26 opening milk prices** by processors has given us further reason for concern. While some local processors are doing their part to maintain fair pricing, most have only offered modest increases that fall well short of covering the rising costs of doing business in a dry year.

With inflation still biting hard—especially around feed, water, and energy—this is not a time for short-term thinking. We've

been clear: without sustainable farmgate prices, local milk supply is at risk. No milk, no market.

SADA continues to advocate for a more collaborative, **whole-of-supply-chain** approach to pricing, one that recognises the shared value in strong, resilient local production. We're also urging the Federal Government to consider targeted support that keeps our farms in business and our regions strong.

We remain committed to representing our members, elevating your concerns to the highest levels, and fighting for the sustainability and success of South Australian dairy.

Supporting Farmers When It Matters Most

One of the most important things a strong advocacy body can do is be there when our industry is under pressure. In recent months, SADA has worked hard behind the scenes to support farmers impacted by the closure of Beston's dairy division.

I'm pleased to share that, thanks to coordinated efforts with government, a **\$3 million support package** has now been delivered to affected Beston dairy farmers. The funds were distributed **pro rata to all eligi-**

ble creditors, representing a meaningful step in helping farmers get back on stable ground.

This support wasn't automatic or inevitable — it was the result of countless hours of advocacy, meetings, and negotiation to ensure farmers weren't left out in the cold. It's also worth acknowledging the integrity of a few farmers who chose to **decline their share**, recognising that others were in greater need of the support. That sense of community is something we can all be proud of.

This is just one example of what SADA does behind the scenes — practical, member-driven action when it counts. If you're not currently a member of SADA, I encourage you to reach out and have a conversation with us. Being part of a collective voice means being part of the solution, not just in good times, but when the going gets tough.

"We didn't realise just how much this support would mean until it arrived. Karen and I were pretty emotional this morning. The assistance package has made a huge difference—not just financially, but knowing there were so many people working behind the scenes to help us. Without SADA's clear communication, persistent advocacy, and willingness to step outside its usual role, this simply wouldn't have happened. We're incredibly grateful." — The Hunt Family

South Australian Dairy Awards Gala Dinner On Sale Now!

FRIDAY AUGUST 15 6.30PM - 11.30PM | WILLIAM MAGAREY ROOM, ADELAIDE OVAL



The Dairy Industry Association of Australia (SA Branch) invites you to step into "A Dairy Wonderland" - a whimsical celebration where dairy takes centre stage in the most delightful way. Join us for the 2025 South Australian Dairy Awards, an evening of excellence, imagination, and indulgence.

EARLY BIRD TICKET SALES CLOSE: 9:00am, Monday, July 7

TICKET SALES CLOSE: 9:00am, Friday, August 1

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

From the SADA Desk

Opening Milk Prices In – A Mixed Start, But Some Bright Spots.

Opening milk prices for the 2025–26 season are in, with a range of responses from processors. While many prices have been described as conservative given the rising input and fodder costs, a few processors have stepped up to support farmers with stronger offers.

South Australian prices opened with:

- **Fonterra:** \$8.60/kgMS
- **Bega Group:** \$8.85–\$9.69/kgMS
- **Lactalis:** \$8.80–\$9.40/kgMS
- **saputo:** \$8.75/kgMS
- **Union Dairy Co.:** \$8.80/kgMS
- **Fleurieu Milk Company:** \$10.50/kgMS (the standout)
- **La Casa Del Formaggio:** \$9.50/kgMS

SADA President Robert Brokenshire welcomed the strong support shown by some local processors, particularly Fleurieu Milk Company and La Casa Del Formaggio, but noted that broader industry pricing remains tight in what is already one of the most challenging years on record.

“We acknowledge the cost pressures across the whole supply chain,” Mr Brokenshire said. “But sustainable prices are essential to secure local milk supply and protect farmer viability.”

DairySA Chair Andrew Cavill agreed prices were lower than hoped, especially given high fodder costs, but said it was encouraging to see some opening with a figure starting with 9.

Both leaders called for continued collaboration across the supply chain to ensure long-term sustainability, urging processors to consider upward revisions where possible.

Despite the tough conditions, SA dairy remains committed to producing high-quality milk and working toward shared solutions for a stronger future. **enjoy dairy for its many [health benefits](#).** visit [Promoting Australian Dairy](#).

The ["More Than an Industry"](#) report by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) highlights the significant advancements and contributions of South Australia's dairy.

Key Highlights of South Australia's Dairy Industry:

- **Production and Economic Impact:** In the 2023–24 period, the dairy industry produced 479 million litres of milk, generating approximately \$345 million in farm gate revenue.
- **Productivity Growth:** Milk yields have doubled since 1985 and are currently 15% above the national average, reflecting the sector's commitment to innovation and efficiency.
- **Technological Advancements:** The adoption of cutting-edge technologies, such as robotic milking systems, has enhanced productivity and animal welfare. For instance, Nangkita Dairies invested \$2 million in robotic milking, allowing cows to be milked on demand and improving overall herd management.
- **Quality and Safety Standards:** South Australia's dairy products are renowned for their high butterfat and protein content, essential for premium dairy manufacturing. The industry maintains an internationally recognized safety record, with stringent quality assurance programs overseen by Dairy Safe South Australia.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Strong collaborations between producers, processors, and food manufacturers have been pivotal. A notable example is the partnership between Nangkita Dairies and La Casa Del Formaggio, which has expanded the production of fresh cheeses for national distribution.

Overall, the report underscores the dairy industry's role as a dynamic and forward-thinking sector within South Australia's agribusiness landscape, contributing significantly to both the economy and the state's reputation for high-quality food production.

State Budget Backs Regional SA and Primary Industries

South Australia's primary industries and agribusiness sector generated \$17.1 billion in revenue for 2023–24, reinforcing its role as the state's largest export contributor—making up 49% of all merchandise exports—and employing 76,000 FTEs statewide.

In the 2025–26 State Budget, Treasurer Stephen Mullighan announced a \$1.8 billion investment in new measures to support regional SA, including significant commitments to agriculture, roads, biosecurity, and emergency services.

Key Primary Industries Initiatives:

- \$55.4 million in drought support across 20+ programs, including infrastructure grants, mental health services, and pest control.
- \$45 million for fruit fly response and market access protection.
- \$11.8 million over five years for biosecurity measures.
- \$44 million for a new coastal research vessel.

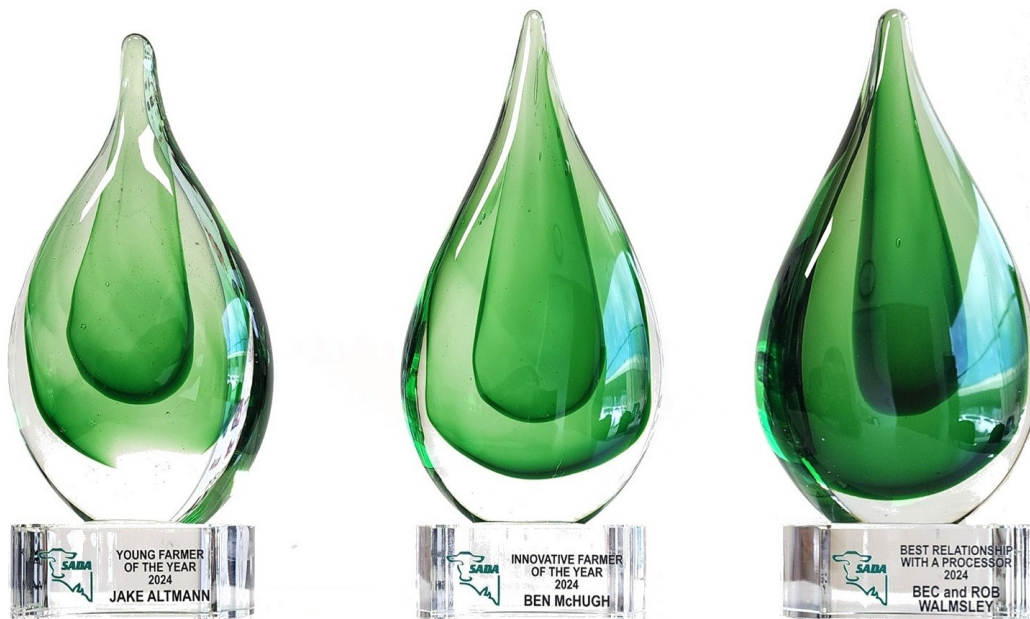
Regional Infrastructure and Services:

- \$125 million for freight route upgrades, co-funded with the Commonwealth.
- \$80 million to improve Main South Road between Myponga and Yankalilla.
- \$17 million for wetland habitat restoration.
- \$45 million for the new Mount Barker Hospital.
- \$29.6 million to expand Police Security Officers into regional areas.

The State Government has committed \$73.4 million in total to help drought-affected farmers.

Learn more and apply for drought support: www.pir.sa.gov.au/drought-support

This budget reflects strong recognition of the vital role primary producers and regional communities play in South Australia's future.



📣 Nominations Close 7 July 📣

2025 SA Dairy Awards

SADA is proud to continue as Premier Partner of the South Australian Dairy Awards in 2025.

This prestigious event shines a spotlight on the outstanding contributions of South Australia's dairy farmers and processors — the passionate people behind the high-quality products found in our supermarket delis, cafés, restaurants, and homes.

For over 15 years, the Dairy Awards have been a key date on the industry calendar, honouring excellence in every facet of dairy production.



We're once again thrilled to partner with **Foodland** to present the *Foodland Dairy Sustainability Award* — recognising leaders who are delivering nutritious food for a healthier world, in line with the **Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework**.

The 2025 program will also continue to showcase our three signature awards: Scan the QR Code for all the details and to lodge your nomination today.

- 🏆 Best Innovative Farmer of the Year.
- 🏆 Best Relationship with a Processor.
- 🏆 Young Farmer of the Year.
- 🏆 Foodland Dairy Sustainability Award.



Let's come together to celebrate the people who make SA dairy great

📅 Save the Date – Friday, 15 August 2025 📅



Help Shape the future of Dairy Workforce Housing Take Our Survey!

SADA is seeking your input to better understand current housing practices, challenges, and opportunities across South Australia's dairy industry. We know that finding and keeping great staff is one of the biggest challenges facing dairy farmers — and housing can play a big role.

The **SADA Dairy Workforce Housing Survey** will help shape future policy, advocacy, and potential pilot projects to support workforce accommodation. Whether you're already providing on-farm housing or have considered it but hit barriers like council approvals or high costs, we want to hear from you.

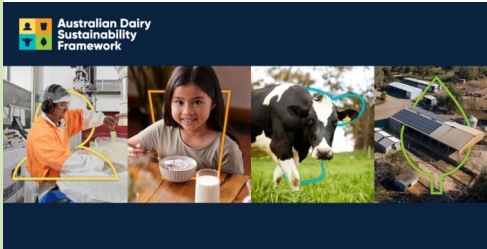
Your feedback will help us:

- Identify common issues across the industry
- Inform discussions with government and councils
- Explore shared housing models or pilot projects

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete and will guide real action.

[Click here to take the survey now](#)

Thank you for helping us build a stronger, more supported dairy workforce in SA.



Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework Working Group.

To support the next phase of the [Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework's \(ADSF\)](#) evolution, four new working groups will be established—aligned to the framework's four commitment areas. These groups will review the current framework in the context of the 2024 materiality assessment, ensuring that its goals, targets, indicators, and metrics effectively address material topics and remain relevant, evidence-based, and aligned with global best practices and the evolving needs of the dairy industry.

SADA is seeking passionate, knowledgeable individuals to join these working groups and help shape the future of sustainability in Australian dairy. Members will play a critical role in ensuring the framework remains responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities, contributing to a future-proof and resilient industry.

Ideal candidates should be enthusiastic about driving positive change, willing to share their expertise, and capable of contributing to the review and refinement of existing goals, as well as the development of new ones. Strong industry networks are essential to ensure that a broad and representative range of perspectives is reflected in the work of the groups. Participation is voluntary, and all meetings will be conducted virtually to ensure accessibility and flexibility.

We welcome applications from individuals across all parts of the dairy supply chain and encourage diverse perspectives—everyone with a passion for sustainability



The [State of the Environment Report 2023](#) provides information on key aspects of the environment, including: **Climate, Air, Land, Water, River Murray, Sea and Liveability**. The Report provides recommendations to government to address the most significant environmental issues, and provides data and analysis to assist government, industry, and the community to take action to improve environmental outcomes.

Summary Report

The SOER is prepared every 5 years under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*. This is the 8th published SOER since 1988. The 2023 SOER adopts the international pressure-state-response model, provides recommendations to government and offers suggestions that could be applied to improve environmental outcomes.

SoE Report 2023 Feedback

EPA are now seeking feedback from people on their thoughts and perspectives on various aspects of the 2023 SOER. This will be used to drive improvements to produce the 2028 SOER. This is an extensive survey to obtain as much information and feedback from the community and stakeholders as possible to help improve the production process.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

These are things that have come to our attention over the past month which might be of interest to you.

If there is anything that you think we have missed or you would like to see in the newsletter, please email: sada@sada.asn.au

SNAPSHOTS in DAIRY

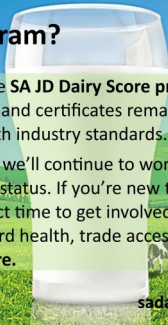
Is your SA JD Dairy Score Risk Rating and Certificate up to date?



New to the Program?

SADA is now managing the SA JD Dairy Score program to ensure that risk ratings and certificates remain current and consistent with industry standards.

If you're already enrolled, we'll continue to work with your vet to maintain your status. If you're new to the program, now's the perfect time to get involved and benefit from improved herd health, trade access, and product quality. [Read more.](#)



sada.asn.au

Budget prepares for Adelaide to host major COP31 event

Peter Malinauskas announces 3 June 2025

STATE BUDGET 2025-26

Australia's dairy farmers' plea for help

SWIPE <<<

THE PROJECT

Murray-Darling Basin Dairy Industry 2025 Strategic Plan Launched to Tackle Critical Challenges and Secure the Industry's Future.

The Murray-Darling Basin Dairy Industry Steering Committee launches the Dairy Industry 2025 Strategic Plan—a comprehensive blueprint designed to strengthen the competitiveness, sustainability, and prosperity of the dairy sector across the Basin and beyond.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Est. 1936

Upcoming Events can be registered on our Website or you can send through your event details on our online registration form.



sada.asn.au

farmers for climate action

farmer insights

farmer insights survey 2025

Farmers urged to complete national survey to shape climate and ag policy
[CLICK HERE](#) To take part in the survey, which closes on July 31.

Murraylands farmers share love of dairy industry with on-farm tours



agri business recruitment

Nick Wickham

0407 976 759

apply@agrecruit.com.au

agrecruit.com.au



Good people to know.

1300 934 934

WFI SADA Partnership:

If you take out a policy with [WFI](#), SADA receives a commission from WFI of 7.5% of the policy premium.

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Upcoming Events can be registered on our Website, send through your event details on our online

[registration form](#)