

## Summary of meeting outcomes

### NSW Dairy Industry Consultative Committee

20 October 2021

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The NSW Dairy Industry Consultative Committee met via video conference on Wednesday 20 October 2021. Specific issues considered at the meeting are outlined below.

#### Attendees

**NSW Dairy Industry Consultative Committee:** Helen Dornom (Dairy Australia), Ruth Kydd (Dairy Connect), Sarah Mandelson (Serendipity Ice Cream), Susan Stanton (Norco Foods), Justin Wilson (The Riverina Dairy Pty Ltd), Su Zhang (Star Combo Australia Pty Ltd).

**NSW DPI:** Geneveive Bonello (Manager Communications Strategic Programs & Partnerships), Eric Davis (Manager Food Standards and programs), Jaime Garcia (Secretariat), Mark Mackie (Manager Regulatory Operations Unit), Ian Sanders (Director, International Engagement), Helen Schaefer (Team Leader Animal Welfare Policy & Programs), Lisa Szabo (Chair – Director Food Safety & CEO NSW Food Authority), Amanda Walker (Senior Veterinary Policy & Project Officer).

**Apologies:** Sarah Britton (NSW Chief Veterinary Officer and Group Director Animal Biosecurity), Michael Cains (Percora Dairy), Sheena Carter (Dairy Industry Advisory Unit), David Cusack (Manager Food Standards & Programs), Alison David (Norco Foods), Peter Day (Director, Compliance & Integrity Systems), James Neal (Dairy NSW), Phil Ryan (NSW Farmers' Association), Bimi Singh (Bega Cheese Limited).

#### Industry updates

Members provided updates on key and emerging issues/concerns in their respective industry sectors with following issues/concerns identified:

- Industry expressed their relief at NSW once again opening up after a long period of lockdown due to COVID-19, although there are still concerns around shortages of suitably trained and skilled staff making it hard for industry to return to pre-COVID-19 trading levels.
- The requirement for essential workers coming from Victorian hotspots into NSW and the different quarantine requirements between the different jurisdictions is causing problems for industry with border-related restrictions, movement restrictions of individuals and classification of Authorised Permitted Workers. This is making it difficult for industry to find those with the technical expertise needed to maintain equipment and other essential business needs.
- Industry was reminded of the revised NSW Health Risk Matrix that was circulated to members by DPI. It was acknowledged that this information is constantly changing which is making it hard for industry to move forward with certainty.
- The committee was informed that the Dairy National Response Group has been reviewing and revising its messaging around COVID-19 to ensure that dairy farm businesses and the broader supply chain continue to operate effectively through this period.
- Industry expressed their gratitude for DPI (particularly Peter Day and Mark Mackie) assistance in developing COVID-19 Safe Plans.

- Following input and engagement with dairy industry stakeholders, including farmers, the Levy Poll Advisory Committee (LPAC) has recommended a poll be conducted of dairy levy payers to determine the future level of the Dairy Service Levy with voting to occur in March 2022.
- Industry expressed their positive experiences with NSW Food Authority's Remote Auditing Program during this period of COVID-19. Industry is also looking forward to a return of some face to face auditing.

### **Food Safety Compliance Report**

Mark Mackie gave a verbal update on the Dairy Industry Compliance activities for the 2020-2021 financial year.

- The compliance rate has remained high at 98%.
- Changes in compliance-related activities such as remote auditing over the last two financial years reflect staff focusing on COVID-19 compliance.
- DPI's auditing processes have shifted to a compliance calendar, whereby the focus will be on industry sectors and completing audits on each sector within a specific designated period.
- The Dairy Industry will be audited twice a year through the remote auditing program with compliance data used to focus on the auditing needs of the different sectors.

Commonwealth legislation requirements for export registered sectors mean that audit processes and procedures for these sectors will not change.

### **Bobby Calf Welfare Saleyard Signage**

Helen Schaefer presented a paper on the measures taken to improve livestock welfare at saleyards. NSW DPI Animal Welfare Unit has been collaborating with Local Land Services and Dairy Australia to develop three saleyard signs which will help inform all people involved with the transport/sale of bobby calves through NSW saleyards, about the relevant welfare legislation and appropriate handling of bobby calves.

The signs have been designed in a similar format to the "Fit To Load" signs previously developed by DPI, endorsed by a number of agencies and industry bodies, and distributed to saleyards across NSW by LLS last year.

The final proofs of the 3 bobby calf welfare signs have been endorsed by 11 agencies/industry groups.

Funding has been obtained to print the bobby calf signs, and to reprint the "Fit to Load" signs, on aluminium. This will ensure high quality presentation of this important messaging in a durable format.

### **Biosecurity update**

Members were reminded of the importance of having a Biosecurity Plan alongside a COVID-19 Safe Plan for their properties and were encouraged to merge both plans with their Food Safety Programs. An additional benefit of the Biosecurity Plan is that it allows those properties which have Plans in place to use the new farm trespass laws for people illegally entering the property. Together these Plans are key measures that Primary producers need to use to make it very clear who and what is permitted to come on and off the property/facility.

### **International Engagement Update**

The committee was informed that DPI's international engagement functions are moving to Investment NSW, which will continue working with DPI to identify sectors needing support. Members were invited to make suggestions on where they feel support is needed to help their sectors grow.

Members were also advised of The Going Global Program is which is run by Investment NSW and funded by the NSW Government and supports the objectives of Global NSW by building export success amongst the State's businesses. It provides a holistic program of assistance, designed specifically for businesses to expand internationally in key markets.

<https://www.global.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-05/Going%20Global%20Launch%20Brochure.pdf>

The ATMAC program is being utilised by Dairy Australia to better understand procedural issues with obtaining export licenses and other aspects to assist with further exports of dairy products.

*The next scheduled meeting of the NSW Dairy Industry Consultative Committee is on 15 June 2022. Further out of session meetings will be scheduled if required to deal with urgent matters such as COVID-19.*