

EOI: Chair Of the NSW Dairy Industry Action Implementation Panel

The New South Wales Government is seeking expressions of interest to fill the Minister appointed position of Chair for the NSW Dairy Action Plan Implementation Panel (the Panel) to commence 1 June 2025 for a two-year term.

The Chair will lead the way to re-establish this panel that will reinvigorate the Dairy Industry Action Plan (DIAP) and coordinate and report on the implementation of securing NSW dairy fresh food supply to the NSW Agriculture Commissioner.

The Terms of Reference for the Panel can be found in **Attachment A**.

Key tasks will include:

- Chairing the NSW Dairy Industry Action Implementation Panel to deliver the against the remaining actions from the Dairy Industry Action Plan.
- Working with the NSW DPIRD to establish the Panel with membership to come from relevant organisations and groups as outlined in the Terms of Reference in **Attachment A**.
- Advising the Agriculture Commissioner on industry input and feedback on the delivery of key NSW Government initiatives to support the dairy industry and on issues and opportunities for the industry.

Skills and experience (selection criteria)

The following skills and experience will be considered in selecting the Chair:

- Ability to lead constructive discussion and provide objective and impartial advice.
- Capacity to chair and achieve consensus with a diverse stakeholder group.
- An understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the NSW dairy industry.

Remuneration

The Chair will be engaged as a contractor by NSW DPI. The specific terms of this engagement will be agreed with the successful candidate with remuneration of up to \$38,150 + GST, plus expenses per year.

Submitting an EOI

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the role of Chair can be submitted by email to:

Attn: Ms Vicki Priest

Executive Officer Agriculture

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

via email: nsw.agriculture@dpiird.nsw.gov.au

Applications close **11:59pm 28 February 2026**

For further information please contact Ms Vicki Priest, Executive Officer Agriculture on 0436 454 533 or by email nsw.agriculture@dpiird.nsw.gov.au.

Attachment

- NSW Dairy Industry Action Plan Panel Terms of Reference

Attachment A: NSW DAIRY ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PANEL

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The NSW Dairy Action Plan Implementation Panel (the Panel) is a non-statutory reporting panel that was established to coordinate and report on the implementation of securing NSW dairy fresh food supply.

The NSW Government recently released a report “Securing NSW dairy and fresh food supply” which states a key pathway for securing sustainable dairy production and supply in NSW is through the reinvigoration of the Dairy Industry Action Plan (the Plan), including the appointment of a new independent Chair to the Panel.

To date, the Panel has already implemented eight of the fourteen Plan actions found in **Appendix A**, while the reinvigoration of the Panel will provide a further opportunity to focus on those recommended actions yet to be completed.

The Panel is industry-led, and the reinvigoration and implementation will continue to build upon the foundations of a successful and profitable future for the NSW dairy industry, which to date has focussed on;

- **Research, Development, Extension & Adoption**, to facilitate improvements in productivity and industry profitability through a collaborative approach to, and increased investment in, dairy research, development, extension and adoption that is tailored to NSW
- **Confidence**, to renew producer confidence in the NSW dairy industry and to increase supply chain collaboration, transparency and profitability while maintaining community trust and support
- **Skills & Business Resilience**, to improve profitability in an evolving market and changing climate by enhancing farmer, employee and service provider skills; improving capacity to plan and manage dairy businesses; and increasing the ability to manage risks
- **Stronger Futures**, to support investment in future growth and profitability by providing support for tomorrow’s farmers, taking a targeted approach to critical infrastructure, and addressing regulatory constraints or uncertainties.

Objectives

1. Assist the Chair in reinvigorating the Dairy Industry Action Plan to ensure the remaining recommendations are contemporary and take into account the structure and challenges of the current dairy industry.
2. Oversee the implementation of the continuing actions of the Plan and publish regular reports on its progress.
3. Coordinate implementation between industry, government and other bodies to maximise outcomes of the Plan.
4. Assist the Chair in preparing reporting related to the implementation of the Plan.
5. Publish annual progress reports on the NSW DPIRD website on the implementation of the Plan.

Chair

The Chair will be appointed by the Minister for Agriculture.

Membership

Membership of the Panel will consist of a mix of industry volunteers (to oversee implementation and provide expert advice) and representatives of organisations and groups responsible for

implementing actions under the Plan (to enable coordination and reporting), and could include representation from:

- EastAUSmilk
- NSW Farmers Dairy Committee
- Dairy Australia
- Processors
- Retailers
- Researchers
- NSW DPIRD
- And any other implementation body determined by the Minister, the Agriculture Commissioner, the DPIRD, or the Panel.

Secretariat

The NSW DPIRD will provide secretariat functions including:

- Organising meetings
- Circulating the agenda
- Taking and circulating meeting minutes

Frequency and Format

Meetings will be held on a quarterly basis or as otherwise determined by the Chair.

Meetings can be conducted face-to-face, via video conference, teleconference or any combination of those methods.

Out-of-session papers may be used to brief Panel members or seek advice in the absence of a scheduled meeting.

Conflicts of Interest

All members must have completed and submitted a Conflict-of-Interest form. Members should verbally declare any conflict of interest at the commencement of all meetings.

Tenure

The Panel will run for two years commencing 1 April 2026.

Appendix A: Original Dairy Industry Action Plan implementation summary

Completed actions

- Survey the use of service providers by farmers, with the aim of identifying gaps and barriers to the uptake of services.
- Reimagine the proposed Buy Fresh Local campaign to promote the value of the NSW dairy industry.
- Provide vocational education and training for farm employees, such as through the continuation of the Tocal College course subsidy.
- Identify high-priority vocational training needs for dairy farm employees and address those needs – including through identifying gaps in existing programs, and considering barriers affecting industry uptake

- Develop skills attraction programs to promote the transfer of relevant external skills into the dairy industry.
- Raise the issue of freight rule harmonisation with other jurisdictions.
- Undertake an infrastructure and utilities stocktake to identify needs and prioritise upgrades to support the dairy industry, for consideration as part of broader infrastructure and utilities planning. This should include consideration of heavy vehicle access.
- Consider options to promote youth in dairy. For example, this could include consideration of school-level training programs and investment in agricultural high schools.

Continuing actions

- Continue to support co-investment and delivery of the dedicated Research, Development & Extension Plan
- Engage with and support dairy industry service providers so as to maximise their effectiveness in servicing the dairy industry.
- Promote dairy as a career and support pathways for entry.
- Support provision of and investment in farm best management practice extension, education and adoption.
- Support provision of and investment in farm business management practice extension, education and adoption.
- Develop standardised processes for milk testing at a national level.
- Support land use planning amendments and agency education to facilitate dairy development.
- Review and make recommendations regarding water-related regulation, including regulation regarding Murray Darling Basin issues, off-river water storage in coastal catchments and regulation related to harvestable rights limits in coastal catchments.
- Continue to support and enhance dairy access to the Farm Innovation Fund, including by identifying the best methods of reaching dairy farmers and considering methods of extending access to the Fund to share farmers and lease farmers.