



Victorian Farmers Federation

United Dairyfarmers of Victoria

District Council 2 and 3 Regional Update



Over the past two weeks, your dairy and water leaders from DC 2 and 3 have been involved in the following activities.

Federal Water Plan:

Richard Anderson and Victorian Government Officials met in Canberra last week with the Federal Government to discuss outstanding concerns with the Federal Plan. This was the first time since February the State and Federal Government had met to discuss the plan and the VFF was instrumental in getting them to meet together. Much discussion focused on the draft legislation which involves an extensive referral of State Government powers. The Federal Government are to release a second draft of legislation in the coming week which they claim will not seek a full referral of powers. We will review this once available.

The Federal Government also hosted an Industry Briefing in Canberra regarding the draft legislation. Richard Anderson was present and continued to assert Victoria's concern regarding a full referral of powers. Many other farming groups at the meeting also supported the VFF's concerns.

National Farmers Federation Water Taskforce:

Richard Anderson attended the Water Taskforce which sets water policy for the NFF. The taskforce met Tom Hatton from CSIRO who is undertaking the Sustainable Yields Project for the Federal Water Plan.

Water Reforms Irrigation Steering Committee:

Richard Anderson attended this meeting, which provides advice to Government regarding unbundling implementation. Discussions focused on the water register and carryover. It was agreed that any future review of carryover must involve better consultation with farmers.

Mortgages:

Richard Anderson attended a meeting with DSE and banking representatives to discuss implications on mortgages when land and water are separated. Water Authorities will be contacting farmers shortly about whether your mortgage should be revised.

Lake Mokoan Meeting:

Richard Anderson arranged for a delegation of farmers reliant on Lake Mokoan to discuss the alternative proposal to a full decommissioning of the lake. DSE will continue to review the alternative proposal and further meetings are scheduled.

Fodder Shortages:

UDV Central Councillors Yvonne Crawford and Daryl Hoey met with the UDV and Australian Dairy Farmers to finalise a submission to the Federal Government regarding fodder shortages. This submission was instrumental in securing \$400 000 from the Federal Government for a program to assist farmers during the drought.

Genetically Modified Organisms Meeting:

Yvonne Crawford, Tim Leahy, Daryl Hoey and Paul Mundy met with Australian Dairy Farmers to discuss the GMO debate and prepare for regional forums in coming weeks.

EC Support for Non-Australian Residents:

Thank you to all those who helped with the meeting last week. Migrants need to work with the UDV/VFF to ensure Government reviews its EC process for non-Australian residents.

Farm Business – "Making Cents": As part of the Developing Dairy Communities Project an information day will be held for dairy farmers. The information day will be held at the Katunga Football Clubrooms, 28th May, 10am – 2pm.

We will continue to keep you informed of our lobbying activities with regular inserts in Country News. If you want further information please contact your branch or district council representatives.