



**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 attended two National Farmers Federation (NFF) Industry Technical Working Group meetings. The group firstly met in Sydney, where Federal Department of Environmental and Water Staff briefed the group on the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA).

Following this meeting the IGA was revised and a meeting was held by video teleconference last Tuesday. Unfortunately, the revised IGA is still seeking a full referral of State Government powers. The VFF does not support this full referral and continues to oppose this principle.

Other issues relating to the IGA include the risk assignment framework, which determines whether changes to water entitlements into the future are the cause of climate change or 'new knowledge'. Reductions in water entitlements as a result of climate change are unfortunately not entitled to any compensation. However reductions in entitlements due to 'new knowledge' are entitled to compensation. The working group has sought a definition of 'new knowledge' to determine when compensation is applicable.

### **Foodbowl Modernisation Project:**

Geoff Akers attended the Foodbowl Modernisation Steering Committee. Discussion focused on the modernization program.

### **Murray Dairy Seasonal Outlook Report:**

Leaders from DC 2 and 3 met to discuss a number of scenarios if the dry conditions continue and its impact on the dairy industry. This report will help to form a base for the region's dairy industry to lobby Government on any response measures that may be needed.

### **New Murray Dairy Board Member:**

Doug Day has replaced Bob Campbell on the Board at Murray Dairy. Doug has a long history in the region and was previously the manager of Meije and currently is a Board member of Dairy Food Safety Victoria.

### **Groundwater Charges:**

We highlighted in our last update that G-MW has increased groundwater temporary transfer charges by \$490. The VFF has sent letters to the Minister for Water, G-MW and the Essential Services Commission (ESC) on this issue. Richard Anderson is meeting with Greg Wilson, Chairman of the ESC today to discuss this further.

### **Foodbowl Unlimited Forum - 24- 25th September**

Foodbowl Unlimited is holding a forum to discuss regional renewal options across the Goulburn and Murray Irrigation Districts. Social and environmental issues will be discussed as well as agribusiness, non water infrastructure (roads, communications etc) and of course water infrastructure. It is important that farmers are present to have strong input into what they believe the future will look like.

*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.*