

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Questions taken on notice

Questions and responses have been outlined - 1 per page.

1. QUESTION - BRUCE KNOWLES

Is DA open to becoming democratically accountable to all Australian dairy farmer levy payers under the control and governance of one national dairy farmer accountable organization with the ADP?

ANSWER

Reform of industry structures and advocacy was a key theme during nationwide consultation for the ADP. Industry representative bodies are responding to this strong desire for change, have widely engaged industry to inform a proposed model.

Creating unity is not an easy task – the complexity of the industry and ensuring the views of many are considered, will take time to work through. Ernst & Young has been leading the design process in conjunction with industry, together with David Palmer Former MLA Managing Director who has been supporting engagement.

The ultimate structure and associated governance will be determined by industry itself through a vote put to farmers. It is too early to determine when the vote will be and how it will be structured. The first step is to present the options for restructure and gather industry feedback.

2. QUESTION - BERNHARD LUBITZ

What has Ellinbank been contributing to making farmers more profitable or resilient?

ANSWER

Ellinbank is a research farm owned by the Victorian government and managed by Agriculture Victoria. Dairy Australia works in partnership with Agriculture Victoria on a range of projects aimed at improving the profitability and resilience of dairy farmers. Work for some of these co-funded projects is conducted at Ellinbank however not all work at Ellinbank is funded by Dairy Australia. Over the past decade there have been a range of feedbase, feeding systems, animal health and production projects that Dairy Australia has co-invested in. Details of the current work at Ellinbank can be found at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/about/our-research/our-innovation-ecosystem/our-smartfarms/ellinbank-smartfarm>

3. QUESTION – PAUL HODGSON

Can soil compaction be addressed by Dairy Australia?

ANSWER

The information below regarding soil compaction is taken from Dairy Australia's Fert\$mart program. Dairy Australia is currently considered what the priorities are for further investment in soil research.

Compaction reduces water and air infiltration, restricts pasture root growth, and slows pasture growth rates. For this reason if it is occurring on dairy farms it should be addressed.

A compacted soil is one in which the soil aggregates have been compressed so that the pore spaces between the aggregates have been substantially decreased. The compacted layer may be at the soil surface as a result of wheel compaction; slightly below the surface from pugging; or at some depth in the soil profile as a hard pan, either naturally occurring or from the use of cultivation implements.

There are recognised management practices that can reduce the likelihood of compaction. These include managing the soils, managing the dairy herd and managing cultivations. Some suggestions are;

- increasing the level of organic matter in the soil to improve soil structure and reduce the bulk density of the soil. This promotes freer drainage when soils are wet.
- use low pressure tyres with a large soil contact area
- overcoming waterlogging through surface and subsurface drainage can substantially help to conserve the soil structure. It is imperative, where subsurface drains are installed, to allow 24 to 48 hours for excess water to drain away. Ideally, the watertable should be at least 300 mm below the soil surface before the pasture is grazed.
- keeping animals off wet areas will reduce compaction. A stand off area may be used to restrict grazing of wet soils.
- keeping machinery off wet areas can help to reduce compaction. Cultivation of wet soils should be avoided.
- modern techniques of minimum tillage or no-tillage are less damaging to soil structure. Frequent or fast cultivation pulverises soil aggregates, breaking down soil structure and macropores, therefore hastening compaction.

Further information on soil compaction, how to recognise it, and further causes and management techniques can be found at: <https://fertsmart.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/dairy-soils-and-fertiliser-manual/chapter-7-managing-limiting-soil-factors/>

For advice on how to manage wet soils and paddock rotations go to:

<https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/feed-and-nutrition/growing-feed-for-the-herd/grazing-pasture/managing-pastures-in-wet-weather-spring-and-summer#.X9GU3tgzaF4>

4. QUESTION – BERNARD FREE

As an ASX company you have no choice about getting a vote so this should be the same for an organisation that I have no choice to pay into?

ANSWER

We want all levy payers to be members of Dairy Australia and therefore have a vote on matters at AGMs, but we are prevented by law from automatically entering levy payers as members. By law, levy payers must make a deliberate action to seek membership.

We aim to make this process as easy as possible, via email, online form or phone call. We have been pleased to welcome 123 new members in the last four months following an proactive membership campaign.

Importantly, Dairy Australia is not an ASX listed company but a Company Limited by Guarantee of which all dairy service levy payers are entitled to be members.

5. QUESTION – IAN MORRIS

Why are the number of voters (share of total levy payers and share of DA members, their weighted votes, undirected proxies voted by Chair etc) not presented at the meeting? Is that not general/normal practice?

ANSWER

It is not usual practice to set out who is voting at the meeting.

6. QUESTION – IAN MORRIS

How does DA see its role in advocacy given the prescriptions put on RDCs by government. How does it see it appropriate to be active on committees associated with how to redesign representative arrangements for levy payers under the dairy plan?

ANSWER

Dairy Australia is working with Australian Dairy Farmers and Australian Dairy Products Federation to support the reform process. This is not in conflict with the obligation to not be involved in agri-political activities.

QUESTION – IAN MORRIS

7. I have already commented on social media about the results of the elections posted on the DA website as not being accurate. The number of voters has been confused with the number of votes. (Is this by design). My humble suggestion is that the posted results are corrected and that a full disclosure of votes and voting is made transparently clear.

ANSWER

Full disclosure of the results are available here on our website [Annual General Meeting | Dairy Australia](#)