

# Media Release

**The Hon Ros Spence MP**  
Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Community Sport  
Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Wednesday, 4 October 2023

## FUTURE SHINES BRIGHT FOR YOUNG FARMERS

The Allan Labor Government has awarded 14 agriculture scholarships to inspire innovative projects and learning opportunities, while also welcoming new members to their first meeting of the Young Farmers Advisory Council.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence announced the new recipients for this year's Upskill and Invest Young Farmers Scholarships, which awarded vying farmers \$5,000 to explore new learning opportunities and another \$5,000 for on-farm equipment technology upgrades, or further professional development.

One of the recipients was Christopher Dunne, a nursery owner in the Baw Baw region – he plans to use his scholarship to create healthy pastures for cattle and grow quality trees, so that his nursery remains environmentally sustainable.

Since 2015, the Labor Government has awarded 117 Upskill and Invest Young Farmers scholarships to students that demonstrated drive and innovation.

Minister Spence also acknowledged the new Young Farmers Advisory Council members and the role they play in supporting young people in agriculture, providing advice on issues that affect them, and acting as ambassadors for the industry.

The Government established the Council in 2015 to offer strategic guidance on practical actions and opportunities that attract and retain young people in agriculture. The Council also makes recommendations on agricultural projects and decisions involving climate change, skills and training.

Clay Gowers, a grain grower from Carwarp will lead as Council Chair, while Amabel Grinter, a dairy farmer from Tongala will be Deputy Chair.

For more information on the young farmer programs visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/youngfarmersscholarships](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/youngfarmersscholarships).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

*"The young farmer programs reflect our desire to develop the next wave of agricultural professionals and we will continue to provide them with the tools they need to enhance their expertise."*

*"These young Victorians are not only passionate about farming but also possess the skills and insights needed to drive positive change within the agriculture industry."*