

Media Release

The Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC

Deputy Leader of the Government in the
Legislative Council

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Resources



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Friday, 11 January 2019

BACKING OUR DAIRY FARMERS IN NORTHERN VICTORIA

The Andrews Labor Government is getting on with supporting our dairy farmers in Northern Victoria with funding for an industry-led project aimed at boosting jobs, training and skills across the sector.

Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development Jaclyn Symes visited a dairy farm in Mooroopna today with representatives from Dairy Australia and Murray Dairy to discuss progress on a skills development project.

As Victoria's dairy industry continues to respond to drought and skills shortages, the Labor Government's \$35,000 grant from the *Regional Skills Fund* is aimed at building local capacity and resilience as well as creating jobs.

The 'Defining future dairy industry service sector skills project' has been driven by industry and was identified by the Goulburn Regional Partnership.

The project aims to identify future state-wide dairy skill requirements in line with the rapidly changing environment that the industry now operates within.

Murray Dairy is leading the project and has engaged a consultant to undertake market analysis of Victoria's dairy services sector, and map current and future skills needs.

The final report will include a dairy industry skills development plan with identified pathways and stakeholders to implement the plan at a regional level.

It will also guide the development of materials and programs delivered by the various education and extension providers.

With more people in the industry with the right skills, it will lead to productivity benefits, an increase of emerging technologies and more ability to respond to future industry challenges.

Dairy is a key agricultural industry in regional Victoria, accounting for more than 62 per cent of annual national milk production and exports worth \$1.9 billion in 2017-18.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development Jaclyn Symes

"The changing face of agriculture makes it critical to give our farmers the skills, training and qualifications they need to stay at the forefront of our \$13 billion industry."

"We're focused on making agriculture an attractive, profitable and rewarding industry for our young people, as well as ensuring it is best placed to capitalise on international and domestic markets."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

"With our support, the dairy sector is leading the way to plan for the future and position the sector for growth."

Media Contact: Tom Whitty 0488 084 717 | tom.whitty@minstaff.vic.gov.au