



Media Release

Tuesday 2nd June 2009

Forum informs farmers

Two hundred dairy farmers attended Murray Dairy's free Business Forum at Moama last week.

The event was a great success with farmers getting off farm for a couple of days and developing an understanding of the external operating environment and learning how they can manage the difficult season ahead.

The Dairy Australia Board was also in attendance with the Chairman, Max Roberts providing the opening address and later launching \$500,000 for a Regional Plan.

Murray Dairy CEO, Natalie Akers said "we are really pleased with the attendance and farmer feedback has been really positive"

"Dairy Australia's decision to provide \$500,000 for a regional plan in the lower Murray Darling Basin is critical" said Ms Akers.

"Many parts of the region are changing: farms, infrastructure, demographics, authorities, government policy, we have a real platform for some solid work in addressing these changes".

Titled "Painting a Picture: Defining Dairy in the Murray Region", guests at the forum also heard from CSIRO, contended that the region is still in prolonged drought and water availability under future climate change predictions will improve relative to what we have recently experienced.

Other topics included the world market outlook for dairy and despite a recent price drop in the short term, the medium term outlook is positive with strong world demand for dairy.

Farmers were introduced to research findings on feeding and how they can optimise profit as well as hearing from a bank on how they can manage debt. Two farming families also spoke about their farm businesses and changes they have made.

The forum was funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Irrigation Industries Workshop program called Dealing with Today: Planning for Tomorrow. The program is being implemented by Dairy Australia, the Australian Dairy Industry Council and Murray Dairy.

"Presentations made last week are available on Murray Dairy's website at www.murraydairy.com.au".

Contact:

Natalie Akers

Murray Dairy CEO

03 58 520 526/ 0408 323 531