

Issue

The future prosperity and sustainability of the dairy industry in NSW and Queensland.

Background

- The dairy industry has undergone significant changes in the last 5 years. Deregulation, drought and lower prices have all contributed to a degree of pessimism in the industry.
- In the last 5 years the number of dairy farms in NSW have fallen by over 35% from 1725 in 1999/00 to 1096 in 2003/04.
- Milk production in NSW has fallen 20% in the last 5 years from 1,395 million litres in 1999/00 to 1,127 million litres in 2004/05.
- At the end of 2004 the Dairy Committee decided there was a need for clearer direction in the industry to address some of the future issues and resourcing needs.
- In July 2005 with the support of Dairy Australia, key stakeholders from NSW and Queensland met in an initial priority setting process to discuss some of the current problems in the industry and projections on future issues.
- In August a smaller group of representatives from NSW and Queensland will meet again to further develop a strategic plan.

Where to from here

- A whole of industry approach is needed to develop a coordinated direction for the industry. This includes the involvement of farmer groups, research groups, government departments and milk processing companies.
- The development of a plan on what the industry will look like in 10 years time and allocation of resources to best address the future issues.
- Adoption and acceptance by all levels of the industry

What the Association is seeking

- Commitment of all stakeholders towards the plan and the future prosperity of the industry.
- Active farmer participation and involvement with the development and implementation of the plan.