

James Mann Opening Comments

- Thank you to the committee members for the opportunity to update you again on matters relating to Dairy Australia and the dairy industry – and it is great to again be here in person.
- My name is James Mann, I am the Chairman of Dairy Australia and a dairy farmer in the far south of South Australia.
- My colleagues joining here with me today are Dr David Nation, Managing Director, and Mr Charles McElhone, General Manager of Trade and Strategy.
- We come to you today during a time when many dairy farmers are still dealing with the impacts of flooding.
- While this latest event has centred on northern Victoria in the Murray Dairy region, we also have current flooding in central west NSW and Wagga, and have flood recovery now underway in some parts of Tasmania.
- Beyond the direct impacts of floods, the ongoing rain and wet conditions along most of the eastern seaboard has made it a very challenging spring for many farms, with very late starts to silage and hay (if at all).
- We have shared some materials with you that highlight the impacts of the current flooding on the Murray Dairy region and would be happy to discuss these impacts and how DA is supporting dairy farmers with you further today.
- Unfortunately, this latest event has overshadowed what has been a more positive profitability environment for many Australian dairy farmers.
- The recently released Victorian Dairy Farm Monitor report for 2021-22 shows the average profits for the 80 participant farm businesses to be 45 per cent above the long-term average.
- This represents the fourth highest financial returns since the project began 16 years ago, seeing many farmers reinvest back into their businesses.
- We would be happy to discuss these results and any other issues with the Committee members today.