



Mr. Gerry McNally  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
Via email - [rrat.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:rrat.sen@aph.gov.au)

30 June 2020

Dear Mr McNally,

**Re: UDV Submission: Inquiry into the Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Amendment (Dairy Cattle Export Charge) Bill 2020**

United Dairyfarmers of Victoria (UDV) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Inquiry into the Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Amendment (Dairy Cattle Export Charge) Bill 2020* by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee.

UDV is the peak representative body for dairy farmers in Victoria. We advocate for our members on all matters affecting the dairy industry, for the benefit of all dairy farmers. UDV is a leading commodity group within the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF), the peak representative body for all farmers in Victoria, and is an affiliate member of Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF), the peak national body for Australian dairy farmers.

UDV supports the proposal to amend the *Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Act 1999* to provide for a charge on the export of dairy cattle to further fund the important work undertaken by LiveCorp. UDV calls for any funds raised to be spent in consultation with the dairy industry to ensure improvements in the dairy cattle export trade, and for this work to be reported on regularly to the dairy industry and articulated in LiveCorp's annual report.

Victoria is home to over 3,500 dairy farms that produce more than 5.5 billion litres of milk supplying Australia and the world, with more than 30 per cent of Victoria's product exported. The dairy industry in Victoria has an economic output of \$8.58 billion, making it the largest agricultural industry in Victoria. Live export has become an increasingly important part of Victorian dairy businesses with many farmers selling surplus replacement stock into overseas export markets, creating a growing income stream for many dairy business. UDV supports the introduction of the levy to ensure adequate funding is allocated to increasing transparency, marketing, biosecurity and animal health and welfare in the live export industry.

In 2018-19, the total value of dairy heifers sold to export was approximately \$188,500,000<sup>1</sup>. In the 2018/19 financial year over 92,000 dairy heifers were exported from Australia, with 90,000 of these cattle coming from Victoria<sup>2</sup>. With a \$6/head levy, this would have provided \$554,736 direct National funding. Victorian dairy farmers would have contributed approximately 98 per cent of this proposed funding. Therefore, UDV requests that proceeds from the levy are spent with consultation from the major participating state bodies, alongside the national dairy industry body (in this case, UDV and ADF).

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<sup>1</sup> ibid

<sup>2</sup> Dairy Australia – Animal Husbandry Survey

UDV hopes this fund will assist in ensuring that the care of exported Australian dairy heifers meets the expectations of both dairy farmers and the broader Australian community, allowing for this important income stream for dairy farmers to continue.

Yours Sincerely,

**Paul Mumford**

President

United Dairyfarmers of Victoria