

## NSW Dairy Industry Consultative Committee

The primary objective of the NSW Dairy Industry Consultative Committee is to contribute to the Food Authority's goal of ensuring the production and sale of Dairy products that are safe and suitable for human consumption, by advising on policy and practices introduced into provisions of the Dairy Food Safety Scheme as it relates to Dairy and Dairy products, and developed through a consultative process. Other government agencies may seek to use the broad expertise and experience of the Committee members to obtain advice on matters beyond the scope of the provisions of the Dairy Food Safety Scheme.

### Summary of outcomes

#### NSW Dairy Industry Consultative Committee – Summary of outcomes

22 October 2025

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The NSW Dairy Industry Consultative Committee met via video conference on Wednesday 22 October 2025. Issues considered at the meeting are detailed below.

#### Attendees:

**NSW Dairy Industry Consultative Committee:** Iain Fee (The Riverina Dairy Pty Ltd), Ruth Kydd (eastAUSmilk), Steven Salway (NSW Farmers' Association), Bimi Singh (Bega Cheese Ltd), Andrew Smith (Dairy NSW), Su Zhang (Star Combo Pharma Ltd).

**NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) – Biosecurity & Food Safety:** Andrew Davies – Chair (Acting Director, Food Safety & CEO NSW Food Authority), Eric Davis, (Manager, Food Policy & Partnerships), Jaime Garcia (Secretariat), Patrick Phillips (Acting - Manager, Regulatory Operations Unit), Brendan Sharpe (Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Agriculture and Biosecurity), Petrea Wait (Senior Program & Project Officer, Animal Welfare Unit).

**Apologies:** Ashley Cooper (NSW Farmers' Association), Stewart Davey (Dairy Australia), Chandni Rathi (Norco Foods), Linda Cafe (Team Leader, Animal Welfare Policy & Programs).

#### Conflict of interest declaration

Members confirmed that they had no conflicts of interest.

#### Industry updates

Members provided updates on the following key and emerging issues in their respective industry sectors:

- eastAUSmilk reports that dairy farms in southern regions of NSW are experiencing dry conditions, leading some large operations to secure at least one year of stock feed and some to hold up to two years of feed. This precautionary measure is in response to the dry weather affecting the region.
- Coastal regions are also facing dry conditions. Dairy producers are responding to this by building up feed supplies to prepare for potential continued dry periods. The department supports this proactive industry approach.

## 1) Matters raised relating to the Dairy Food Safety Scheme

### Food Safety Compliance Report

DPIRD's Compliance and Integrity Systems Unit provided an update on the dairy industry compliance activities for the FY 2024-25. 93 percent of licensed Dairy businesses recorded an acceptable audit and/or inspection result, a 2 percent fall compared to the same period in FY 2023-24. A total of 415 audits and inspections were conducted during FY2024-25, with a combined total of 52 regulatory interventions (improvement notices, prohibition orders, or warning letters). Biosecurity and Food Safety Compliance has moved to an audit and inspection calendar, which retains the risk based operational model for all licensed food businesses.

The Regulatory Operations team continues to implement a risk-based audit and inspection calendar for all licensed food businesses, allowing the frequency and scope of monitoring to be adjusted in response to emerging risks and changing strategic priorities. Complaints, inspections, and investigations relating to dairy businesses will remain managed on an as-needs basis.

## 3) Other matters raised

### Animal welfare update

DPIRD's Animal Welfare Unit updated members on the following:

#### **Virtual Fencing**

##### **National work:**

The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is currently finalising the Australian Animal Welfare Guide for Virtual Fencing (the AAW Guide) in collaboration with the Animal Welfare Task Group (AWTG) and with advice from a Stakeholder Reference Group.

- The AAW Guide is expected to be published on the DAFF website late in 2025
- Updates can be obtained here: [Virtual fencing technology - DAFF](#)

##### **NSW:**

- The department is supporting the NSW government's aim of legislating to allow the use of virtual fencing for NSW dairy and beef cattle by the end of 2025.
- Consultation is underway on a draft *NSW Animal Welfare Guide for Virtual Fencing*, which is intended to be prescribed as an evidentiary guide under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* as part of the NSW legislation. As such, the Guide will be admissible as evidence in proceedings under the Act or the Regulation.
- The NSW guide is designed to be a concise and practical document directly informed by the draft Australian guide and that will align with the final version of the Australian Guide.

### **Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines (S&G) for Livestock at Processing Establishments**

- The approach to public consultation and regulation impact analysis for this standard was discussed at the August 2025 AWTG meeting.

- The AWTG is continuing discussions on the next steps of its work to improve the process for developing national animal welfare standards and guidelines.

*The date for the next meeting of the NSW Dairy Industry Consultative Committee is to be advised.*