

Media Release



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A changing climate – dairy will rise to the challenge

The Melbourne Cricket Ground will light up next week when dairy farmers, industry and government come together to tackle the sector's changing environmental, social and regulatory climate at the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria (UDV) Annual Conference.

“Dairy farmers continue to be confronted by a range of challenges – producing more milk from fewer resources, accommodating increasing input costs, and responding to demands from consumers seeking greater production transparency,” said Mr Paul Mumford, UDV President.

“The year ahead will continue to be one of change for our farmers as they address these challenges.

“We will also see some fundamental changes in how we operate, as farmers commence a new type of relationship with processors, as a result of the introduction of the Mandatory Dairy Code.

“This year's conference provides a forum to learn, discuss and debate some of these important issues with the assistance of expert keynote speakers to stimulate the conversation.

“I am very pleased that we have Superintendent Peter Greaney from Victoria Police discussing the increasing risk of farm trespass and illegal activity by animal activists as this is an issue worrying many of our farmers.

“Sarah Barker from MinterEllison will put aside the environment to explore the financial and legal risks of climate change.

“I look forward to welcoming my colleagues from other state dairy farming organisations who will join a panel to tackle some tough questions about how farmer advocacy bodies can best serve their members and what members should expect from these organisations.

“I also know a lot of farmers are particularly looking forward to hearing from Dairy Australia and Australian Dairy Farmers leaders to demystify the Dairy Plan,” said Mr Mumford.

The UDV 2019 Annual Meeting and Conference will be held on **Friday 10 May at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)**. The Conference is free for all farmers, and registration can be done [online here](#) or by calling the UDV office on 1300 882 833.

Media wishing to attend the UDV Conference should register their interest with Heather Smillie, VFF Stakeholder, Media & Communications Officer, by calling 0400 874 589.

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About the VFF

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is dedicated to representing the interests of farmers and making a positive difference to their businesses and communities. We strive to create an environment for our members, our farmers, that enables profitable, safe, sustainable production to ensure an enduring social licence in a community that respects and values the sector.