SNAPSHOT OF DAIRY IN THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN FY2019–20

1159 dairy farms across four states
78% of which are in Victoria
22% split between South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland.

The highest number of farms relying on irrigation are in the Southern Basin region, which includes Southern NSW, Northern Victoria and South Australia. Very few Queensland dairy farms rely on irrigation.

37% reduction in dairy farm numbers and a 30% reduction in total milk production since the Basin Plan began in 2012.

1.66 billion litres of milk produced, representing 22% of the total national volume.

Approximately $527 million has been invested by dairy farm businesses in on-farm infrastructure during the past five years in the Victorian Murray region alone.

Anecdotally, water entitlements make up approximately 25% of capital assets for dairy farm businesses in the Basin.

Farm gate value of $906 million resulting in $2.3 billion of value to the local community.

Much of this farmer investment is to enable increased feedbase production, harvesting, storing and feeding back to the herd. Much of this investment is for risk-management measures, helping farms to become more resilient in the face of challenges to productivity.