SNAPSHOT OF DAIRY IN THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN FY2022–23*

Farmgate value of

\$1.14 billion

resulting in

\$1.96 billion



6,862
Total employment

2,848

Direct employment (farm and processing)

4,014

Flow-on employment



dairy processing companies operating in the Basin.



of value to the local community.

912

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.



1.53 billion

litres of milk produced, representing 19% of the total national volume.





47%

reduction in dairy farm numbers and a

35%

reduction in total milk production since the Basin Plan began in 2012.



Anecdotally, water entitlements make up approximately

25%

of capital assets for dairy farm businesses in the Basin. Many dairy farms are now needing to purchase

60%

of all the water they need on the temporary market, leaving them exposed to significant water market risk.

^{*} Dairy Australia, multiple sources.

^{**} Farmgate value and employment numbers are based on estimations applying 2021/22 output against 2019/20 economic multipliers from the BDO economic contribution report.