



Your Levy at Work

## Media Release

13/10/16

### **WestVic Dairy welcomes new Board Members**

WestVic Dairy has welcomed four new Farmer Directors to the Board.

Tania Luckin from Heywood, Shaun Beard from Jancourt East, Mark Billing from Larpent and Michael Hawker from Heywood have been officially appointed as Farmer Directors.

Bringing a variety of experience from across the region, the new Directors will play an active role in implementing the WestVic Dairy Strategic Plan and overseeing the operations of the organisation.

WestVic Dairy Chairperson, Simone Renyard, was enthusiastic about the fresh perspective the new members will bring.

“I’m really excited that we have four new Farmer Directors who each bring different qualities and skills sets. We have two younger Board members and two others who have been around the industry longer and bring a different perspective. We’ve also been mindful of our directors’ geographic locations so we have an even mix of representatives from across the region,” she said.

Tania Luckin (who milks a herd of 500 mostly Holstein cows in Heywood with husband Stephen) said she wanted to use her new position to advance the development of the local dairy industry.

“Dairy is a dynamic industry to be a part of and it is important that we as an industry recognise how resilient we are and celebrate that. I’m very passionate about developing the potential of south west Victorian dairy farmers and building on the good work of previous WestVic Dairy Boards”.

Heywood farmer and WestVic Young Dairy Network member, Michael Hawker, also expressed his ambition to further develop the industry. “I want to assist with the future of the industry and bring a fresh and innovative approach during my time on the Board,” he said.

Former winner of the Great South West Dairy Awards ‘Legendairy Farmer of the Year’, Mark Billing, said he was eager to help farmers improve their business practices.

“I’m looking forward to the challenge of being part of the Westvic Board in the milk price environment we currently face. More than ever we need to ensure that we are able to deliver services that enhance South West dairy businesses ability to manage the volatility that we face, and come out the other end with more resilient farms and people.”

Sharefarmer Shaun Beard is “looking forward to my time on the Board to learn, and as an independent farmer representative, encouraging more farmer attendance at events.”

The new Directors join incumbent Farmer Directors Simone Renyard (Chair) from Timboon and Kirsti Keightley (Deputy Chair) from Moutajup. Industry professionals Tom Newton (Treasurer), Gemma Chuck and Daniel Meade (Associate) comprise the Non- Farmer positions and complete the WestVic Dairy Board.

**Media enquiries:**

**Chris McNamara** — [Community Engagement Officer - WestVic Dairy](#)

03 5557 1000 | 0405 280 810 | [media@westvicdairy.com.au](mailto:media@westvicdairy.com.au)

*WestVic Dairy is a not for profit regional development program (RDP) led by western Victorian dairy farmers. WestVic Dairy is funded by Dairy Australia and the Dairy Service levy and supported by regional stakeholders.*



