

Media Release

Monday 9 September, 2019 | Media contact: Deb Banks 0447 388 193

Helping dairy farmers make the big decisions

Dairy farmers in northern Victoria thinking about making significant changes to their farm business are encouraged to access the new Dedicated Dairy Support Program.

Funded by the Victorian Government, the Dedicated Dairy Support Program has been designed to support northern dairy farmers thinking about making a big decision.

The big decision could be leaving the industry, scaling back (or up), family succession or transitions to other enterprises.

Program Coordinator Chris Howard said the new program gives farmers an opportunity to have those first conversations around a possible transition out of the industry or a major change to their set-up.

“If farmers are thinking about making a big change to their business this program will provide free, independent and confidential support and advice.

“We can work with farmers to develop an individual plan that takes into account their business and personal needs, and connect them to other specialist services,” he said.

Mr Howard said dairy farmers in northern Victoria need to make proactive informed decisions in response to current seasonal conditions.

“Existing Rural Financial Counselling Services (RFCS) clients are welcome to enrol in the service, while continuing to work with their current rural financial counsellor.

“I would strongly encourage anyone who doesn’t currently engage with the RFCS to have a look at this new program and make an appointment to talk to us,” he said.

The Dedicated Dairy Support Program is being delivered by the North East Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria in partnership with the North West Rural Financial Counselling Service, Agriculture Victoria, Murray Dairy and AgBiz Assist.

For more information go to www.agbizassist.org.au, call 1300 834 775 or email dairysupport@agbizassist.org.au