

Joint Statement from Hico and NHD

Herd Improvement Cooperative Australia (Hico) and National Herd Development (NHD) are pleased to announce a major partnership initiative to better serve the Victorian, South Australian and Southern NSW dairy industry.

Moving forward the two cooperatives will work more closely in areas such as administration, accounting, and financial reporting services to reduce duplications of common industry processes.

"The industry has changed over recent years with farmers exiting the sector, the rise of corporate farms as well as the challenge of securing staff," said Chair of Hico Andrew Verboon.

"The similarities in the two cooperatives far outweigh the differences and we are confident this move will strengthen the role of both organisations moving forward, added Andrew."

The partnership will come into effect immediately and allow the two organisations to work more closely over coming months and exploring other areas of efficiency.

At this stage this is a partnership. However, both parties will explore whether a full merger of the two cooperatives is desirable in the future.

"The Dairy Industry needs a strong Herd Improvement Cooperative" said Chair of NHD Paul Weller.

"This partnership will allow us to secure the role of the co-operative in the industry and allow us to meet the changing demands of the dairy farmer more sustainably added Paul.

The General Manager of NHD, Phil Wren will become the General Manager of both co-operatives providing leadership to the managers of branches across Victoria and South Australia.

Staff at both NHD and Hico have been briefed on the changes and are looking forward to both organisations developing closer ties and moving forward.