

Fonterra Australia Suppliers' Council – 2020 AGM

7 October 2020 (virtual AGM)

Chair's address – John Dalton

Around this time last year, we were in Tasmania, with no idea of what 2020 was going to deliver us. With COVID-19, everyone has been affected in some way, from those in Melbourne in a hard lockdown with travel restrictions and many businesses closed, to us on the land who have some restrictions but able to keep farming. We are fortunate to be able to continue to produce our milk, to have it collected and processed and taken to market and receive our payments as usual.

It is more than ever as this crisis continues that we look out for each other - from those within our families, our workforce and our local communities that have been impacted and to offer support where we can.

At FASC this calendar year has been a challenge, with all our contact done virtually. We have seen the introduction of Mandatory Code and under the circumstances I believe the initial stage was reasonably well communicated to Fonterra suppliers, so they knew what was involved. In early in June FASC approached Matt Watt with a request to look at the way Fonterra sets milk price in Australia. Fonterra, through Matt, accepted this request and FASC was involved in setting the parameters and now in working in the working groups. More on this will be communicated as it comes available.

I also hope you have noticed that we are communicating to you in a variety of different ways now. Emails and more recently short 30 and 60 second videos are designed to keep you up to date in a quick and simple way. We always welcome any other suggestions on better ways to connect with you.

We have circulated that we plan to move our AGM and the regional showcase to March each year to enable more farmers to attend. We know that farms are busy all year these days, but the overwhelmingly feedback from farmers was that March was the best option for most. Considering COVID, I hope by March 2021 we can run this session and I do look forward to meeting people in person again.

As always, a Chair address has some thankyou's. To our wider FASC team thanks for your engagement under such trying times. The work within regions is to be commended. To our fellow suppliers, thank you for accepting the change and seeing it as a new way forward. To our Company secretary Will, the work you have done for us this year under lockdown is nothing short of incredible. To Matt especially and the Fonterra team in Melbourne, we do have a closer working relationship even under these COVID restrictions.

The regions are all looking like we are going to have a good spring and a great harvest. Stay safe and well and have a good Christmas even though it will probably be like one we've never had before.

Thanks John