



Hi,

After seven years on the board of the Fonterra Australia Suppliers' Council (FASC), including the last three as Chair, it's time to step away and focus on my business and family. It's been a pleasure leading this committed group of farmers, dedicated to making a difference and strengthening our relationship with Fonterra.

I'm pleased to share that Paul Weller has been selected by the Board as FASC's new Chair.

Many of you will know Paul, he farms in Lockington in northern Victoria and has been on the FASC board since 2018. Paul has held various board and leadership positions within industry and has served as a member of the Victorian parliament for eight years. Please join me in congratulating Paul on this appointment.

We also welcome back Mark Miers, who returns to FASC as Director for Tasmania following Nigel Brock's retirement last year. With new faces on FASC, I encourage you to [visit our website](#) to read their profiles and access contact details. This continuous renewal of the Suppliers' Council and the Board ensures a fresh perspective is maintained, bringing new ideas on how to ensure the supply experience with Fonterra is the best it can be.

As a group who represent all Fonterra suppliers, it's important to us that you know more about each regional representative, and to start us off, you can [read an update from Tasmanian Councillor, Emma Liersch](#).

Proud to be a Dairy Farmer ran earlier this month with 25 participants selected from 60 applicants from all states and representing 14 different processors. The program continues to go from strength to strength, and I'm proud of the work led by FASC during my time as Chair to grow awareness of the program across the entire industry.

You can [watch a video](#) of this year's program highlights below. Applications for the 2025 program will open later in the year, and I encourage you to start thinking about any young workers or family members who would benefit from attending.



It's been good to see a healthy amount of optimism around the Australian milk pool, as production heads back into positive territory for the back half of the season, although tough seasonal conditions may temper these expectations in Tasmania and western Victoria.

GDT prices also experienced a positive trend for a few months, and although they've dipped in recent events, they have recovered some ground following the fall six months ago.

As we heard from the Fonterra Co-operative Group's FY24 Interim Results, earnings from the Australian business are down on the previous year, with Australian milk price putting pressure on their margin. While still banking a profit, they're leaning on their Consumer brands and Foodservice arms to pick up where exports and Ingredients are challenged.