

Media release

28 October 2015

Building on our strengths

At the 15th annual general meeting of Dairy Food Safety Victoria (DFSV), Chairman Grant Davies was able to report that “there were no foodborne illness outbreaks attributed to Victorian produced dairy products over the period and there was a decrease by approximately 40 per cent in the issue of critical and major corrective action requests at audit.”

Mr Davies pointed to the increase in the number of new manufacturing licence applications processed by DFSV to almost double that of two years ago. He spoke of the expectation of further global demand for Victorian dairy products, particularly in light of the recent free trade agreements, which translate into an increase in regulatory services required to maintain safe production of dairy food in Victoria.

CEO Jennifer McDonald described building DFSV’s capacity and capability along with supporting development of industry capability as a major focus over the past 12 months.

“Growth in the manufacturing sector of the industry has led to increased licencing and compliance monitoring activity for DFSV. This has focused our attention on building DFSV’s capability and capacity — through recruitment, organisational restructuring and staff training.” Ms McDonald said.

Ms McDonald also described the impact of regulatory change during the year, particularly related to permissions to produce cheese from raw milk.

DFSV led the national discussion on implementation of changes to the Primary Production and Processing Standard for Dairy Products (Standard 4.2.4), allowing the production and sale of some cheeses made from unpasteurised milk.

The CEO stressed the importance of ensuring DFSV has “the flexibility to respond to the demands of a changing operating environment.”

This AGM marks the end of a three-year board term and strategic plan. Mr Davies introduced the new Board; welcoming four new directors and thanking retiring board members for ensuring sound governance and providing strategic leadership over many years.

During the reporting period DFSV undertook a rigorous strategic planning process which involved the entire organisation and also sought and considered the views of industry stakeholders.

“We have a clear vision for the future which is outlined in our strategic plan for the next five years” said CEO, Jennifer McDonald. “We have begun implementing this plan which supports continuous improvement in delivery of our regulatory obligations to ensure that consumers can confidently continue to enjoy Victorian dairy foods.”

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