

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**7 JANUARY 2016**

# **Lion Landcare Grant helps Murray Bridge farm reduce energy costs**

Murray Bridge dairy farmer, Ian Mueller, has installed an impressive energy efficient system which will significantly reduce his farm's energy costs by more than 30 percent or over \$2 per kilolitre of milk.

Glenbrook Dairy was one of 11 farms awarded a share in \$100 000 this year as part of the Lion Landcare Grants Program, which aims to boost sustainability in the production and supply of milk.

Farm owner and operator Mr Ian Muller said the Dairy, which produces three million litres of milk a year, would use the grant to set up an energy efficiency plan for the dairy shed that looked at improving milk cooling, milk harvesting and hot water systems.

Mr Muller said, "Saving energy is important to our business because ultimately it means saving costs and producing less greenhouse gasses."

Installation of a heat recovery system and a new larger hot water service means the shed's hot water system no longer needs to run 24 hours per day.

"The pre-heating is expected to heat water from 10 degrees to 50-70 degrees before electricity is required to complete the remaining heating to the 80 degrees required for the dairy processing," said Mr Muller.

"The larger capacity of the system will provide enough hot water for both morning and night milkings before reheating. It will also reduce the load on the compressor in hot weather improving efficiency of the compressor on hot days when it is currently overheating.

"The system will run on off-peak night power only, the lowest cost electricity. We expect this will reduce our costs from over \$6 per kilolitre to around \$4."

Murray Jeffrey, Lion's Head of Agricultural Procurement, said that through the Lion Landcare Grants program, Lion is able to help make Australian dairy farms more sustainable for the long term.

"The grants program helps Aussie dairy farmers to achieve sustainability while also reducing costs, which is great for the environment and for their business. Lion is really proud to support such a fantastic program," Mr Jeffrey said.

Landcare Australia CEO, Tessa Jakszewicz, said the dairy program showed that economic and environmental aims could be complementary.

“The range of projects that have been funded through this partnership demonstrate innovative ways of optimising results for the dairy industry, our land, water and sustainable farming for the future,” Ms Jakszewicz said.

The Lion Landcare Grants Program was set up in 2014. Each year, selected farmers are tasked with reducing energy consumption, enhancing biodiversity or improving on-farm nutrient management.

To date, improvements have been made in areas as diverse as recycling effluent nutrients to reduce fertiliser use, preventing dairy farm run-off from entering waterways and recycling composted organic nutrients on pastures.

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**About Landcare Australia**

Landcare Australia Ltd is the leading not-for-profit organisation responsible for raising awareness and funding for the Landcare movement to support its role in protecting, restoring and sustaining the productivity and value of Australia’s natural environment.

The Landcare movement is made up of more than 6000 Landcare and Coastcare volunteer groups that work on environmental projects in their local communities. The groups that fall under the Landcare umbrella are varied in nature and don’t necessarily include Landcare in their names, including our sub-brand Coastcare, as well as productive farming groups, ‘Friends of’, Bushcare, Rivercare, Dunecare and indigenous ranger groups.

[www.landcareaustralia.com.au](http://www.landcareaustralia.com.au)

**About Lion**

Lion is a leading beverage and food company with a portfolio that includes many of Australia and New Zealand’s favourite brands.

Lion employs close to 7,000 people across Australia and New Zealand predominantly, and takes great pride in its local manufacturing footprint, which spans over 36 sites across the Tasman.

Lion is one of the region's largest purchasers of agricultural goods and an integral component of the retail, hospitality and tourism industries, with a total direct plus indirect contribution to the Australian and New Zealand economies estimated at more than \$5 billion annually.

Lion builds marketplace success from the foundations of great people and great brands, with a portfolio of household-name brands such as Tooheys, Dairy Farmers, Steinlager, Tasmanian Heritage, XXXX, PURA, Hahn, Berri, Speight’s, King Island Dairy, James Boag & Son, Dare, Yoplait, Wither Hills, St Hallett and COON.

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