Media Release

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CHARTER FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The future of Australian dairy education is looking brighter than ever this month after 11 registered training organisations officially sign on to the Dairy Australia-led National Centre for Dairy Education Australia (NCDEA) Alliance.

The organisations cover each of Australia's major dairying regions.

Under the agreement, each Alliance Partner will work to ensure the optimum regional delivery of dairy vocational education and training to Australian dairy communities.

NCDEA General Manager John Weichert sees this move as a big step forward for the industry.

"By officially signing on to the new Alliance Charter, the selected regional Colleges are strengthening their relationship with the dairy industry and their commitment to provide consistent, quality dairy vocational training and education, across Australia," he said.

"The NCDEA recognises that each dairying region in Australia has unique needs. It's vital that the training we offer meets those needs and is of the highest quality. Partnering with regional Colleges will ensure we deliver this," Mr Weichert said.

Dairy Australia committed to enhancing the Australian dairy industry's vocational education and training when it partnered with Goulburn Ovens TAFE to create the NCDEA in late 2005. This strong partnership continues to provide support, capacity and services to the Alliance.

Led by the Australian dairy industry, the NCDEA is backed by dairy farmers and is one of many examples of the Dairy Services Levy at work.

Dairy Australia Managing Director Ian Halliday continues to value this commitment.

"Learning is essential for farm success, industry progress, regional prosperity and national wealth. The NCDEA enables the dairy industry to own and manage the vocational training we need, so that our industry can continue to be internationally competitive, innovative and sustainable," he said.

"In an increasingly volatile and complex environment, it's more important than ever for us to arm our dairy farmers with the tools to adapt, develop and build capability and capability. The NCDEA encourages farmers to adopt new technologies and gives them the skills they need to continue to operate sustainably and profitably."

The NCDEA offers nationally accredited gualifications, from certificate II to Advanced Diploma in Agriculture — Dairy, as well as a wide range of short courses suitable for new and existing farmers.

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NCDEA qualifications, while based on the National Training Package have additional agreed industry specific requirements to ensure that resources and assessments used for the delivery of all programs are dairy farming based.

Signing on to the charter are:

- Goulburn Ovens institute of TAFE, VIC
- East Gippsland TAFE, VIC
- The Skills Institute, TAS
- Great Southern Institute of Technology, WA
- Tocal College, NSW
- TAFE NSW Illawarra Institute, NSW
- TAFE NSW Riverina Institute, NSW
- TAFE NSW North Coast Institute, NSW
- TAFE SA, SA
- Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE, QLD
- Australian Agricultural College Corporation, QLD.

For more information on the NCDEA and other levy investments visit www.dairyaustralia.com.au

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