

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Regional Development Programs (RDPs) are independent, regional bodies that were initially established by Dairy Research and Development Corporation in the mid-1990s to provide the dairy industry with an independent perspective of the dairying regions. There are eight RDPs throughout the major dairying areas of Australia. Funded by Dairy Australia, the specific roles and responsibilities of the RDPs are to:

- Better understand regional needs and differences (production systems, infrastructure, culture);
- Develop regional partnerships that lead to improved co-ordination and delivery of R&D and extension (RD&E) programs;
- Attract additional funding for RD&E; and
- Empower the local dairy industry and build leadership capacity across Australia.

Dairy Australia funds are allocated to the RDPs using a funding formula based on regional milk production. Each year the RDPs consult with the industry in their region and develop regional farm sector priorities. The RDPs then develop an annual operating plan for the investment of funds in RD&E initiatives to address these priorities. RDPs use Dairy Australia's funds to broker regional partnerships to improve the co-ordination and delivery of RD&E activities and to increase investment in industry-initiated programs.

In 2006/07, the eight RDPs delivered the following activities with a total investment of \$23.3 million (\$3.6 million from Dairy Australia and \$19.7 million from other organisations).

Table 5: Regional Development Program activity 2006/07

RDP	Dairy Australia's investment	Other funding	Number of projects funded	Number of projects initiated	Number of projects completed	Number of events held and dairy farmers who attended
Subtropical Dairy Subtropical QLD and Northern NSW	\$457,929	\$3,263,559	27	10	22	111 events, 1,500 attendees
DIDCO (Dairy Industry Development Company) – NSW	\$355,578	\$2,461,113	34	32	30	340 events, 2,746 attendees
Murray Dairy Murray Region	\$820,723	\$4,414,523	31	21	14	121 events, 5,587 attendees
GippsDairy Gippsland	\$592,418	\$3,478,250	31	24	22	152 events, 4,047 attendees
WestVic Dairy South-west Victoria	\$592,418	\$930,539	11	7	4	14 events, 842 attendees
DairyTas Tasmania	\$254,362	\$1,261,579	14	9	9	89 events, 842 attendees
DairySA South Australia	\$278,225	\$1,719,084	15	11	5	210 events, 1,300 attendees
Western Dairy Western Australia	\$208,966	\$2,208,333	3	4	7	17 events, 800 attendees
Total	\$3,560,394	\$19,736,980	166	118	113	1,054 events, 17,664 attendees