

HD **Chinese** Look To Increase Aust **Dairy** Holdings

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Chinese investors are snapping up Aust **dairy** farms and infrastructure, with four multi-**million**-dollar mega-deals in progress likely to see **Chinese** state-owned companies taking big stakes in all Aust's largest **dairy** farming **operations**. In western Victorian, about 50 **dairy** farmers have signed individual option deals to sell their farms, worth a collective \$400m, to a **Chinese**-dominated **dairy** conglomerate being put together by Tasmanian-based property developer Troy Harper. The 50 farms together produce 500m litres of **milk** a year, about one-twelfth of Victoria's total **milk** supply.

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The newly aggregated farms will boost their **milk** production by at least 50%, to supply two new consortium-owned processing plants to be built in western Victoria. They would process and export \$700m worth of prized infant **milk** formula into **China** and other global markets. The new **business** will be Aust's largest **dairy** farming **company**, five times bigger than the large Van Diemen's Land **Company** (VDL) in northwest Tasmania, which the state-owned **Chinese** Investment Corporation came close to buying last year for more than \$200m.

It was also confirmed this week VDL is once again in play. A majority **Chinese** owned **company** is set to **buy** VDL's 19,000ha, 25 farms and 18,000 milking **dairy** cows owned by NZ's Plymouth District Council. Also in Tasmania, Landmark Harcourts has assembled 12 **dairy** farms around the Smithton area collectively for **sale** for \$120m.

Meanwhile rival Victorian **dairy** processors with factories in the area such as Saputo-owned Warrnambool **Cheese & Butter** factory at Allendale, Murray Goulburn's **dairy** processing plant at Koroit and Fonterra's Cobden plant, the locking up of 50 farms with their 500m litres of annual **milk** production by the **Chinese** corporation will **lead** to a drastic shortage of **milk** supply.

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IN i010010502 : Dairy Cattle Farming | i4131 : Non-frozen Dairy Products | i0 : Agriculture | i01001 : Farming | i0100105 : Cattle Farming | i41 : Food/Beverages/Tobacco | i413 : Dairy Products | icnp : Consumer Goods | ifood : Food Products | ilsfarm : Livestock Farming

RE china : China | victor : Victoria (Australia) | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | ausnz : Australia/Oceania | austr : Australia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

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