## THE STANDARD

**SE** NEWS

HD A CHINESE investment group has its sights set on at

WC 196 words

**PD** 18 October 2014

**SN** The Warrnambool Standard

SC FWARST

**PG** 1

**LA** English

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A **CHINESE** investment **group** has its sights set on at least 50 south-west farms as several of the region's leaders voiced concerns about the proposed mega **dairy** deal.

Investment firm Linear Capital announced its masterplan will involve the development of two new processing plants and the "acquisition" of dozens of dairy farms.

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Apart from a vaguely-worded statement, Linear declined to comment on the proposed plan yesterday, or whether it wanted to **buy** farms or come to some sort of lease arrangement.

The Standard understands several dairy farmers have already signed up to the Chinese-Linear deal as part of a lease deal, while other landholders have made in-principle agreements with the group.

Former United **Dairy** farmers of Victoria (UDV) president Doug Chant said the reticent style of Linear Capital had left many in the south-west concerned.

"The approach of this Chinese investment group has been secretive, very secretive," Mr Chant said.

"As a patriotic Australian and dairy farmer, I cannot understand how anyone can support this model.

"I'<mark>m</mark> all for

IN i010010502: Dairy Cattle Farming | i0: Agriculture | i01001: Farming | i0100105: Cattle Farming

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AN Document FWARST0020141017eaai00002