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HD THE **dairy** industry has welcomed investment in a new
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THE **dairy** industry has welcomed investment in a new **dairy company** based at Camperdown that aims to grow **milk** supply and increase the amount of Australian **dairy** produce exported into Asia.

Camperdown **Dairy** International (CDI) was formed when agricultural investment management **company** EAT **Group** joined resource development **company** MCG **Group** to **buy** the Camperdown **Cheese** and **Butter** Factory and farms.

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United Dairyfarmers of Victoria (UDV) welcomed investments in new equipment to efficiently manufacture **dairy** products, its president Tyran Jones (pictured) said.

CDI is now acquiring farms and its chief executive Phil McFarlane said it was at the 30 to 40 **million** litre mark of the 100mL goal.

If the **company** is investing in new farms to grow **milk** supply, the UDV would support that, Mr Jones said.

"It seems a fairly positive 'watch this space' because it seems they have money behind them and are securing growth in export sector, which is where we want to see growth in the Victorian **dairy** industry," he said.

CDI aims to grow its own **milk** supply including by developing bigger farm enterprise systems Mr McFarlane said.

Although farm acquisitions take time to negotiate, farmers have been receptive to the idea, he said.

Other arrangements such as co-investment can help farmers expand without taking sole financial risk, he said.

CDI aims to **milk** 10,000 cows and secure another 200mL on contract to serve Asia's surging demands.

It will be the first vertically integrated, farm-to-distribution supply chain operation in Australia and will export bulk whole **milk** powder and infant formula powder to Asian markets, primarily **China**.

The plans include a new \$120 **million** spray dryer at Camperdown. Work on the site is scheduled to start next month and the processing plant is expected to come online at the end of 2015.

Initially, it is expected to employ 30 to 50 people.

Aussie Farmers Direct's Camperdown **Dairy** is a separate **company** and will also continue to operate from the site.

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