

**HD** **DAIRY INDUSTRIES PERSIST TO INCREASE, NEW PROCESSING PLANT IN BERRY**

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CANBERRA, ACT, Nov. 28 -- Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce issued the following press release:

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**Dairy** industries in Australia continue to expand, with news today that the Berry Rural Cooperative has started building their new processing plant in Berry, New South Wales. Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, was in Berry with Member for Gilmore, Ann Sudmalis, to 'turn the first sod' and celebrate the bright future of the Berry Rural Cooperative, trading as South Coast **Dairy**. "I congratulate Berry Rural Cooperative on its work to establish the new plant; the plant will be able to process 18,000 litres per day, increasing its production capacity and therefore driving more demand for locally produced **milk**," Minister Joyce said. "Here on the South Coast, the Berry Rural Cooperative is focused on delivering real benefits to local producers-of course it's about profitability, but it's also about supporting members, and in turn the community. "Of course, the future is looking brighter not just on the South coast, but for the **dairy** industry right across Australia. The Coalition Government has made trade and market access a major priority in order to grow and strengthen our primary industries and deliver better farmgate returns to producers. "The recently concluded **China** Australia Free Trade Agreement, which eliminates all tariffs on Australian **dairy** exports to **China** means our industry will be better able to capture future growth in this burgeoning market. Demand for **dairy** products in **China** is projected to rise 74 per cent by 2050 according to ABARES. "The historic **China** Australia FTA - **China**'s first with a major advanced economy - is one more reason that Australian **dairy** has a **firm** foundation on which to plan and invest for a profitable future. "**Dairy** is an important agricultural industry in Australia; there are over 6,300 **dairy** farmers across Australia and it's estimated that the average Australian drinks 106 litres of **milk** per year. "As a supporter of the cooperative model, it is so great to see Berry Rural Cooperative have the confidence to make this investment - an investment that will support local producers and so many others that rely on the local **dairy** sector." Federal Member for Gilmore Ann Sudmalis said that the sod turning of the new Berry plant represented a new chapter in agriculture on the South Coast of NSW. "Gilmore has always been a great **dairy** producing region, but over the past few years many of our local **dairy** farmers have been doing it tough," Mrs Sudmalis said. "Today's sod turning marks a new agricultural chapter for the South Coast, as once completed, we will be producing up to 18,000 litres of local fresh, high quality **milk** for **sale** both at home and abroad every day. "I'm especially pleased that Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce was able to join us at this important milestone, expressing the Coalition Government's strong confidence in the continued production of **dairy** products in Gilmore."

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