



PRESS RELEASE

ASX debutante offers a co-operative sweetener

Sydney, 12 May. Following the decision by the farmer shareholders of Australian dairy co-operative Murray Goulburn to list a unit trust on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals, chief executive, Melina Morrison said the decision is a vote in favour of the co-operative model.

"Rather than a sign that the co-operative model inhibits growth and business development, Murray Goulburn's innovative capital raising shows the strength and flexibility of the model in an increasingly competitive and globalised agriculture market", said Ms Morrison.

"Co-operatives have been grappling with the complexities of raising capital from investors outside of the voting membership class. Murray Goulburn has come up with an innovative solution to get capital into the business to pursue new strategies in the value added products part of the business. There is international interest in this development from other parts of the co-operative sector, Ms Morrison concludes.

The contribution of co-operatives in the agriculture sector is substantial. Australian agricultural co-operatives handle and market 40 per cent of the nation's grain crop and 35 per cent of the blueberry crop. The world's largest exporter of rock lobster is Geraldton Fisherman's Co-operative.

As recommended in the Federal Government's Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper, government has a role in promoting the growth of co-operatives in Australian agriculture. Later this year, the Senate Economics References Committee will hold an inquiry to examine the role, importance, and overall performance of co-operative, mutual and member-owned firms in the Australian economy.

Murray Goulburn, a BCCM member, processes a third of Australia's milk supply and is our largest dairy exporter.

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Notes for editors

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2. You can also receive the BCCM's news and press releases by following us on Twitter @BCCM_AU or signing up to our newsletters at www.bccm.coop
3. The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) is the national peak body representing the co-operative and mutual models of enterprise in Australia. Formed in 2013, the BCCM is led by the chief executives of Australia's leading co-operative and mutual businesses and is the only organisation uniting the entire, diverse range of member owned business.