

Local engagement: Dorrigo

Local engagement Output Report



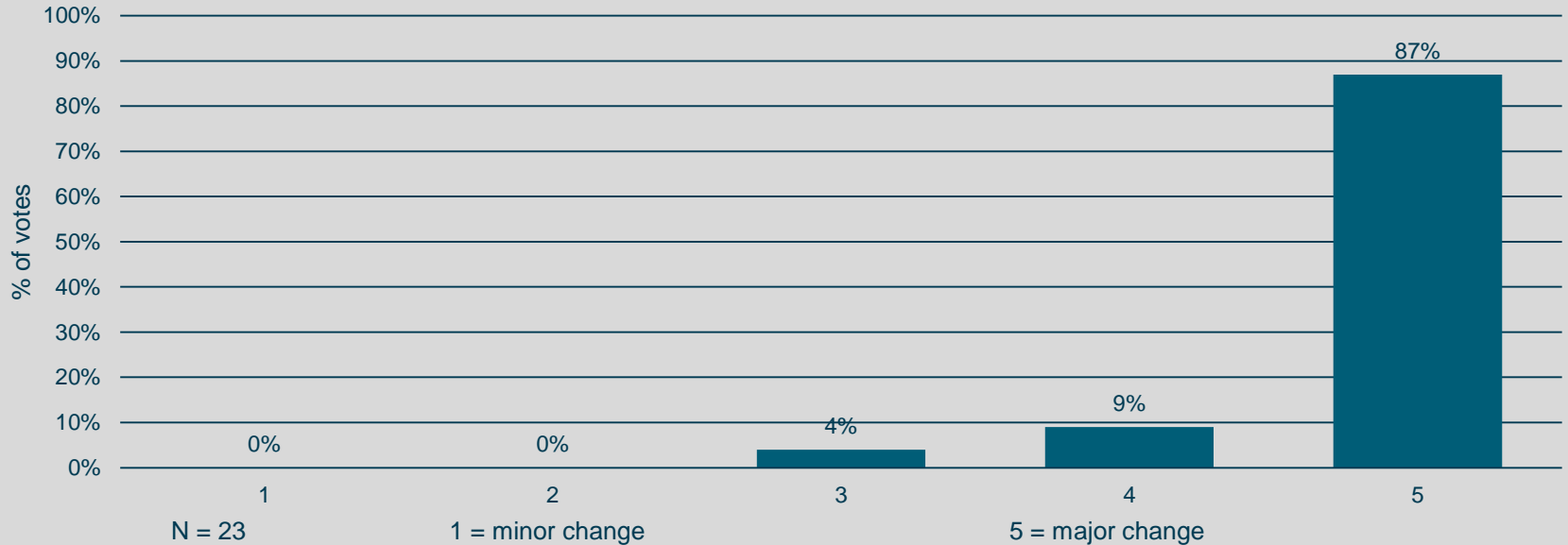
Background

Concurrent to the regional workshops are separate local engagements being held by RDPs and SDFOs for each dairy region. This report captures the discussions held at the local engagement in Dorrigo on 10 May that was facilitated by Subtropical Dairy.

Alongside the outputs for the regional workshops, this local engagement output is intended to provide a record for attendees and for those who could not attend to contribute to the conversation. This output will be combined with the outputs of other local engagements and regional workshops in the development of the Australian Dairy Plan.

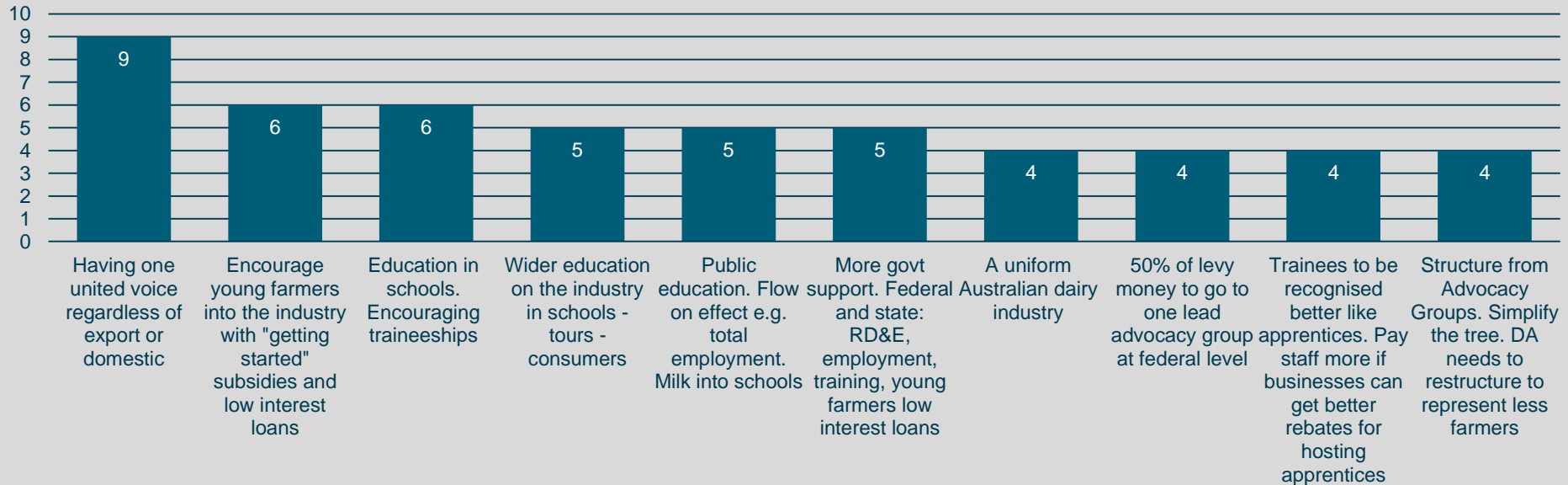
How big is the appetite for change?

Participants voted on "how much change is needed to get the industry to a better place?"



What needs to change?

Participants voted on “what specifically needs to change to get dairy to a better place in the next five years”?



Appendix: What needs to change? (full list of results)

- Having one united voice regardless of export or domestic
- Encourage young farmers into the industry with "getting started" subsidies and low interest loans
- Education in schools. Encouraging traineeships
- Wider education on the industry in schools - tours - consumers
- Public education. Flow on effect e.g. total employment. Milk into schools
- More govt support. Federal and state: RD&E, employment, training, young farmers low interest loans
- A uniform Australian dairy industry
- 50% of levy money to go to one lead advocacy group at federal level
- Trainees to be recognised better like apprentices. Pay staff more if businesses can get better rebates for hosting apprentices
- Structure from Advocacy Groups. Simplify the tree. DA needs to restructure to represent less farmers
- Ratification of all dairy industry lead groups - accountability and transparency
- Value for money from levies
- Spending levies more efficiently
- What can we learn from NZ on pricing and education and valuing agriculture as a profession
- Remove money and process from lead advocacy groups
- Encourage more young people into dairy
- More of a uniform farmer voice when negotiating price with processors (and supermarkets)
- Our region at mercy of Vic industry prices since deregulation
- Milk can go from Vic to Qld cheaply
- Time to buckle down and get a better base price (advocacy over R&D)
- Invest in good news stories - not "whinging farmers"
- Don't want charity - just sustainable incomes
- Pay less R&D levy and pay directly for training courses especially repeats like CoCo
- Re-allocate \$\$ to advocacy
- Better linkages to secondary schools to dairy career pathways locally
- Recognise contributions from dairy farms to local economy
- Are Dorrigo farmers in the right sub-region? Should we be in Dairy NSW
- Have 1 governing body made up of small groups from each state
- Limit imported dairy products. Awareness on subsidies on foreign milk products
- Sustainable milk price
- Food security
- Relevant to geography and markets and farm practices e.g. seasonal year round
- Floor price for liquid milk. Marketing. Free market has let us down
- More education of consumers about reality of dairy systems - has to start in schools - education on nutritional value