



Australian Government
Dairy Adjustment Authority

3rd Act 03/04
Submission No:2.....

JOINT COMMITTEE OF
4 FEB 2005
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS & AUDIT

SUBMISSION OF THE DAIRY ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit public hearing into ANAO Audit Report No. 36, 2003-2004, The Commonwealth's Administration of the Dairy Industry Adjustment Package

The ANAO did not make any formal recommendations directly affecting the Dairy Adjustment Authority (DAA) following the audit of the Commonwealth's administration of the Dairy Industry Adjustment Package. Rather, all three recommendations were in relation to the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (the Department). Accordingly, while the DAA generally supported the findings of the audit, the DAA did not provide a formal response to the recommendations made.

Since the making of the recommendations, the Authority has liaised with the Department and the industry services body – Dairy Australia Limited - regarding the implementation of recommendation 2. In this regard, the Authority supports the Department in taking steps to require performance measures of the DAA and other agencies able to draw administrative monies from the Dairy Structural Adjustment Fund. The Authority and the Department have exchanged information regarding the development of performance measures.

In addition to the formal recommendations, ANAO made a number of findings and comments in relation to the administration by the DAA of the Package.

The DAA's assessment of entitlements under the Dairy Structural Adjustment Program Scheme 2000 and the Supplementary Dairy Assistance Scheme 2001 was essentially complete by the time of the ANAO audit. However, ANAO's findings and observations have been of benefit to the continued administration of the Schemes by the Authority and have led to improvements in the recording of delegations, the role and composition of the Authority's audit committee and the formulation of and reporting against Key Performance Indicators.

ANAO's findings also serve to illustrate the enhancements in administrative efficiency that should follow from allowing a greater time period to implement a structural adjustment program. These benefits were clearly apparent in the development and implementation of the Supplementary Dairy Assistance Scheme 2001.

Dairy Adjustment Authority
2 February 2005