

AgFutures Community of Practice

Tuesday 21 March 2023



What was the AgFutures Community of Practice?

The purpose of the Community of Practice (CoP) was to bring together community stakeholders from the Barwon South West region of Victoria to create visibility for AgFutures by presenting what AgFutures is, what the pre-employment and training would look like for a young person taking part and what the ambition is in community and nationally. Attendees heard from the representatives of the six AgFutures partners and members of the Youth Reference Group and Employer Reference Group.



Who attended?

47 people attended the CoP, including local leaders from community organisations and representatives from Glenelg Shire Council, Warrnambool City Council, Corangamite Shire Council, Workforce Australia, Glenelg and Southern Grampians LLEN, South West LLEN, Department of Education, DemoDAIRY, Aurora Dairies and WestVic Dairy.



Session One: Why AgFutures and why now?

Session One focused on why AgFutures and why now. It gave an overview of how community has been involved in AgFutures so far and involved a panel discussion with the partners of AgFutures. The partners spoke about the importance of agriculture being a critical industry and the need to make visible the range of rewarding careers in the industry. Questions were asked by the audience on who is eligible to participate and how can we collectively change the community perception of agriculture.



Session Two: A new approach to training for sustainable agricultural careers

Session Two gave an overview of the proposed training and pre-employment pathway. The importance of pre-employment was a key theme raised by attendees. Attendees also heard from 3 members of the employer reference group, Sophie Norris, Ricky Tuck (Aurora Dairies), and Sam Andrews (WestVic Dairy and farm owner) who spoke about how agriculture has always been an innovative sector but “innovation comes from new blood.”



Session Three: Building connections for enabling our young people

Session Three included an inspiring and lively panel discussion with 5 members of the AgFutures Youth Reference Group. Taylah, Ella, Jake, Grace, and Sophie spoke about how “young people are the way of the future” and that in agriculture you get to “see the rewards in real time and see all of your effort payoff.”



PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
Aug 2022 - Jan 2023	Feb - Jul 2023	Aug 2023 - Jan 2024	Feb - Jul 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-designing a fit for purpose training and employment solution with local and national partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing and refining the design through input from employers and young people Engaging up to 40 host employers Recruiting up to 75 young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery a community led pre-employment and accredited training program Young people start 6 months of initial work on farms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post pilot support to enable young people grow their careers on farm Sharing lessons to scale the solution
COMPLETED	IN PROGRESS	UP NEXT	LOOKING AHEAD

AgFutures is funded by the Victorian Government through the Workforce Training Innovation Fund and proudly supported by:



The AgFutures partners acknowledge the traditional owners of lands and riverways of the Barwon South West region - the Bunganditj, Coladjin, Djab Wurrung, Djargurd Wurrung, Gadubanud, Girai Wurrung, Gulidjan, Gunditjmarra, Jardwadjali, Tjap Wurrung and Wathaurong (Wadawurrung) Aboriginal people.