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Adrian Pederick MP

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
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Dairy plants sale should revitalise local industry

Murraylands communities are breathing a sigh of relief at news two local dairy factories have been sold as going concerns says local MP and Shadow Minister for Agriculture Adrian Pederick.

Factories at Murray Bridge and Jervois have been bought by independently owned United Dairy Power (UDP) and already new Managing Director Tony Esposito is talking expansion.

'That the plants have been sold is a great relief for employees and their families who would have been most uncertain of their own futures through this,' Mr Pederick said.

'With new owners talking more shifts, more staff and more production, employees can feel greatly reassured and the general community will also be buoyed by this very positive development.

'I am sure existing employees will be rejuvenated by this news and will respond to the new owner's show of faith by doing all they can to ensure UDP's growth and success.

'The increase in competition for milk supply can only be a good thing for SA producers.

'I've been pressing the government for months to play a positive role in making this sale happen.

'The dairy industry has been under siege for some time, battling drought, low water allocations and water quality issues, compounded by the supermarket milk price war and the general financial slump of recent years.

'With all these problems, many farmers were forced out of the industry, in some cases leaving formerly productive dairy farms abandoned and derelict.

'I believe this will be the catalyst to examine ways and means of reactivating many of those farms and, in doing so, generating much needed economic activity in the region.'

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