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DIAL upgrade to meet dairy manufacturing R&D demand

Over the coming 12 months Dairy Innovation Australia will invest \$4.3 million in its Werribee facilities to extend and upgrade its research and technology capability and meet the anticipated future demands of the Australian dairy industry.

Following a review of future infrastructure needs, and consideration of several options, the DIAL Board has agreed to expand the Werribee site, consolidating all activity in one location.

The investment will allow:

- Upgrade of the Cultures Production Unit to meet current quality OH&S requirements and to allow production of additional culture types.
- Construction of a Processing and Applications Research Unit to meet the needs of member companies, reduce lease costs and undertake trials of research program outcomes.
- Creation of sufficient office facilities to enable all DIAL personnel to be located under one roof, remove administrative duplication and save on current leasing costs.

Investment in this asset will ensure world-class research facilities for DIAL member companies – and the Australian dairy industry – including:

- The ability to provide an uninterrupted delivery of consistent starter cultures to members.
- The provision of dairy-specific facilities and capabilities to accelerate technology transfer of research program outcomes, prior to factory installation.
- The ability to carry out cost-effective pilot-scale evaluation of new process technologies, test product development technologies, evaluate ingredient applications, and provide sensory testing and training.

The expansion will be funded using company reserves (retained from legacy organisations) and bank funding in order to ensure member funds continue to be channelled into R&D projects and the application of research outcomes into processing sites.

Initial plans have been drafted, and construction is expected to begin early next year. The project is due for completion in late 2012.

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