

News Release - Tuesday 27th October 2009

Industrial Dispute at Open Country Dairy, Waharoa resolved.

The industrial dispute at the Open Country Dairy processing site at Waharoa is over.

Company Chairman, Laurie Margrain, said the resolution of the dispute meant the company could fully implement its restructuring package.

“Since industrial action began we have moved ahead with the restructuring process to bring Waharoa’s shift structures into line with those at our other processing sites at Wanganui and Awarua,” Mr Margrain said.

“This has been done with the full support of the majority of the staff who were not party to the dispute.” Mr Margrain went on to say.

He said the full restructuring package proposed for Waharoa means that 30 of the 35 people involved in the dispute will not return to the company. The five who are returning will rejoin the company following a pre-employment process.

“I would like to acknowledge my sincere appreciation to all our staff that stood by the company during these difficult weeks. It certainly hasn’t been easy for them.

“I would also like to thank our suppliers for their support – particularly those supplying Waharoa. It has been a tense time over the peak of the season and we are pleased to report that not one drop of milk has been lost.

Mr Margrain said he was pleased the company could now move ahead with greater certainty and security for the future.

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