

## NEW ROBOT DAIRY AT UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE'S DOOKIE CAMPUS TO HELP LEARNING

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A ROBOTIC milking system at the University of Melbourne will illustrate the industry's cutting edge technology.

That's according to University of Melbourne dean of veterinary and agricultural science Prof Ken Hinchcliff.

"One of the things we must do is illustrate the cutting edge technology and development and advancement happening within the dairy industry," he said.

"The dairy industry is a very, very strong industry with a great future in Australia."

The extensive data generated from the three Lely milking robots would be useful for students studying both veterinary science and agriculture, according to Prof Hinchcliff.

The milking system investment, which is worth \$5 million, was launched at the University's Dookie campus last week.

The robotic milk system includes state-of-the-art cow-health monitoring system and sophisticated measurement of milk parameters.

It also generates energy from a 30KW solar system.

Installing a robotic dairy system required many changes on the farm for grazing and the University had also made an "extensive" investment in new irrigation infrastructure.

The Dookie dairy is expected to milk up to 180 cows, with 40 head using the robots at the moment during the "shake down phase".

The system has been operating for about a month and the students will be rotated through the dairy in the next couple of months, Prof Hinchcliff said.



New direction: Students Claudia Gebert and Nick Minogue with lecturer Brendan Cullen (centre) and Dookie's new robotic dairy. *Source: News Limited*