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Executive Leadership Team Updates

Synlait Milk Limited (Synlait) has appointed Richard Hickson as Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Richard brings over 20 years of leadership experience in manufacturing operations across the global dairy and infant nutrition sectors. His career has spanned the Middle East, New Zealand, and The Netherlands, reflecting a deep understanding of international markets and operational excellence.

He is currently CEO of AusNutria B.V. in the Netherlands. Prior to this, Richard held senior leadership roles at several major dairy organisations, including Chief Operating Officer at Westland Milk Products and General Manager at Oceania Dairy Limited. Earlier in his career, he also held key positions at Fonterra and PepsiCo.

Richard will join Synlait in February 2026.

In addition to Richard's appointment, Synlait is making two further updates to the Executive Leadership Team. Abby Ye, Director of Foodservice & President China, will now report to Hamish Yates, who joins Synlait today as its new Chief Revenue Officer. In addition, Hila Mory's role has been updated to Chief Quality Officer, reporting to CEO Richard Wyeth.

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