



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



# Outlook 2025 conference

Insights for Action: Fostering growth in a changing world

4-5 March 2025 | Hotel Realm Canberra | Online

## Trends in farm investment and debt

Attracting capital to agriculture

5 March 2025

Dale Ashton

ABARES Farm Performance



# Overview

- What is ‘investment’?
- Investment for productivity growth
- Trends in investment
- Debt main source of funds

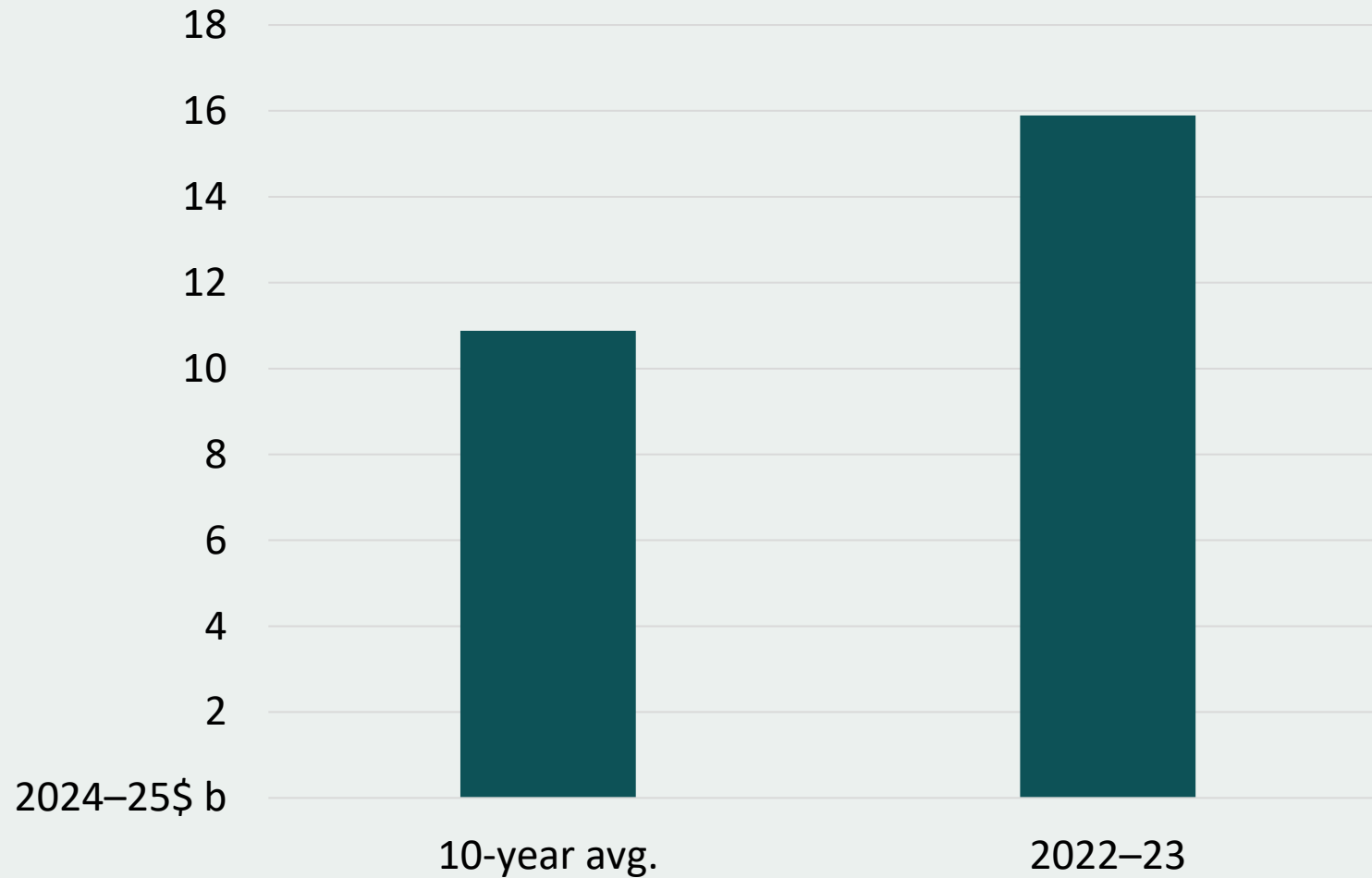


# Defining investment

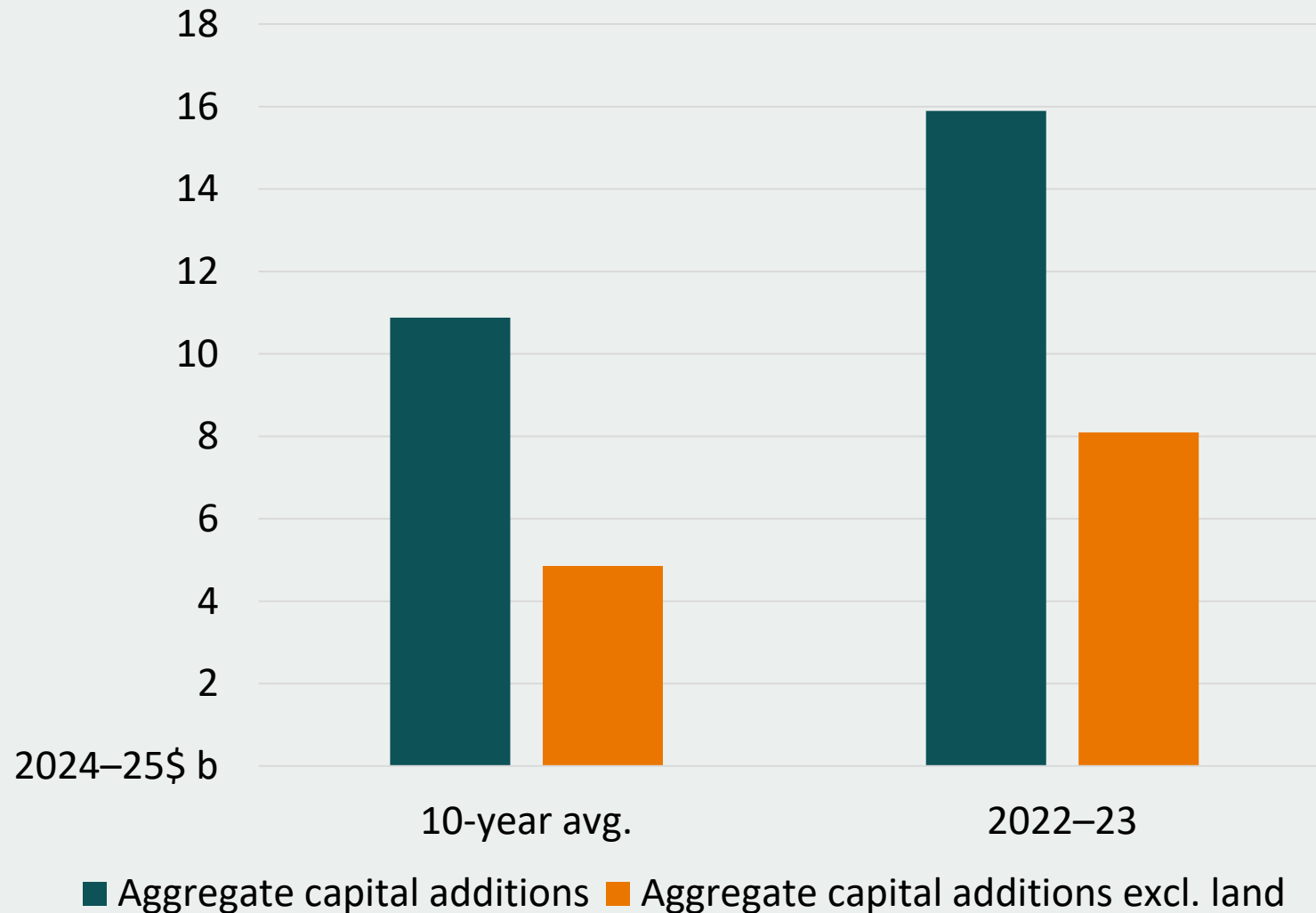
*“expenditure on capital, plant, machinery and so on that provide ongoing productive benefits, or a flow of services”*



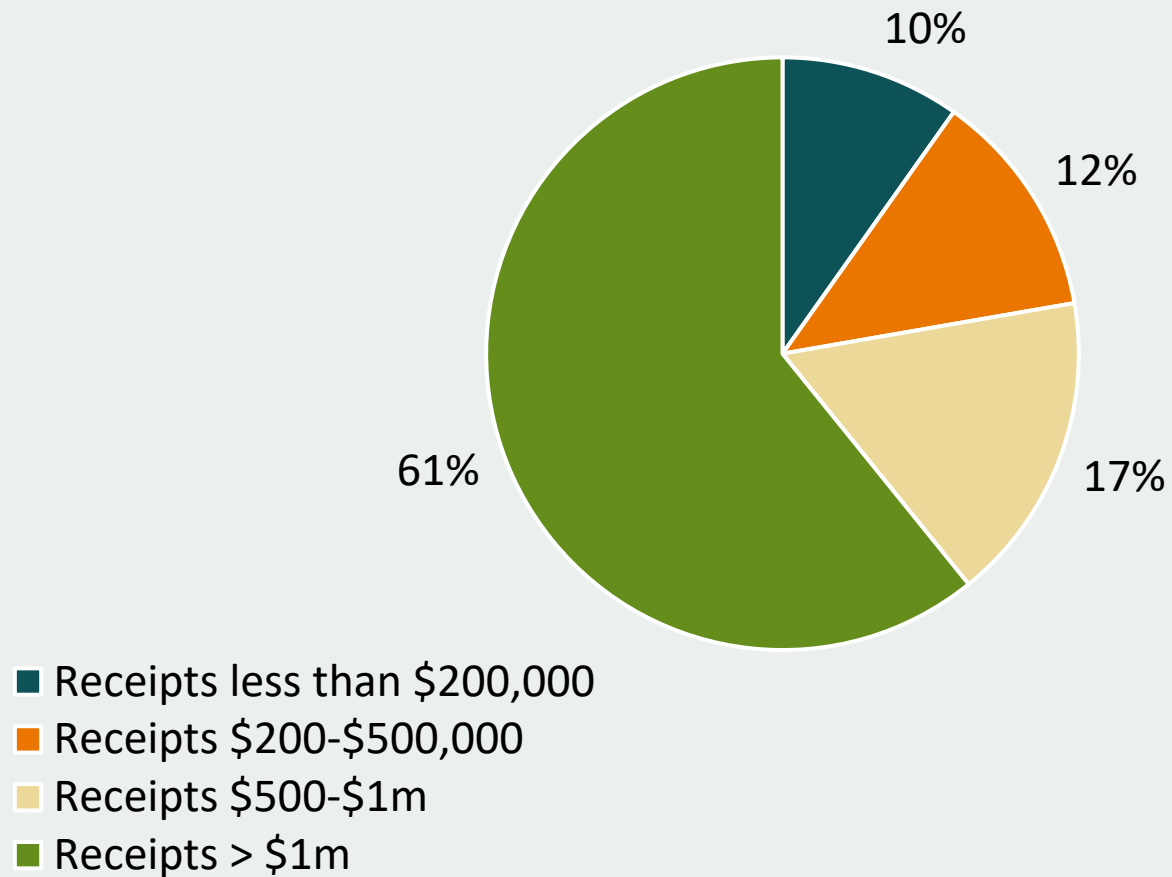
# Aggregate new investment



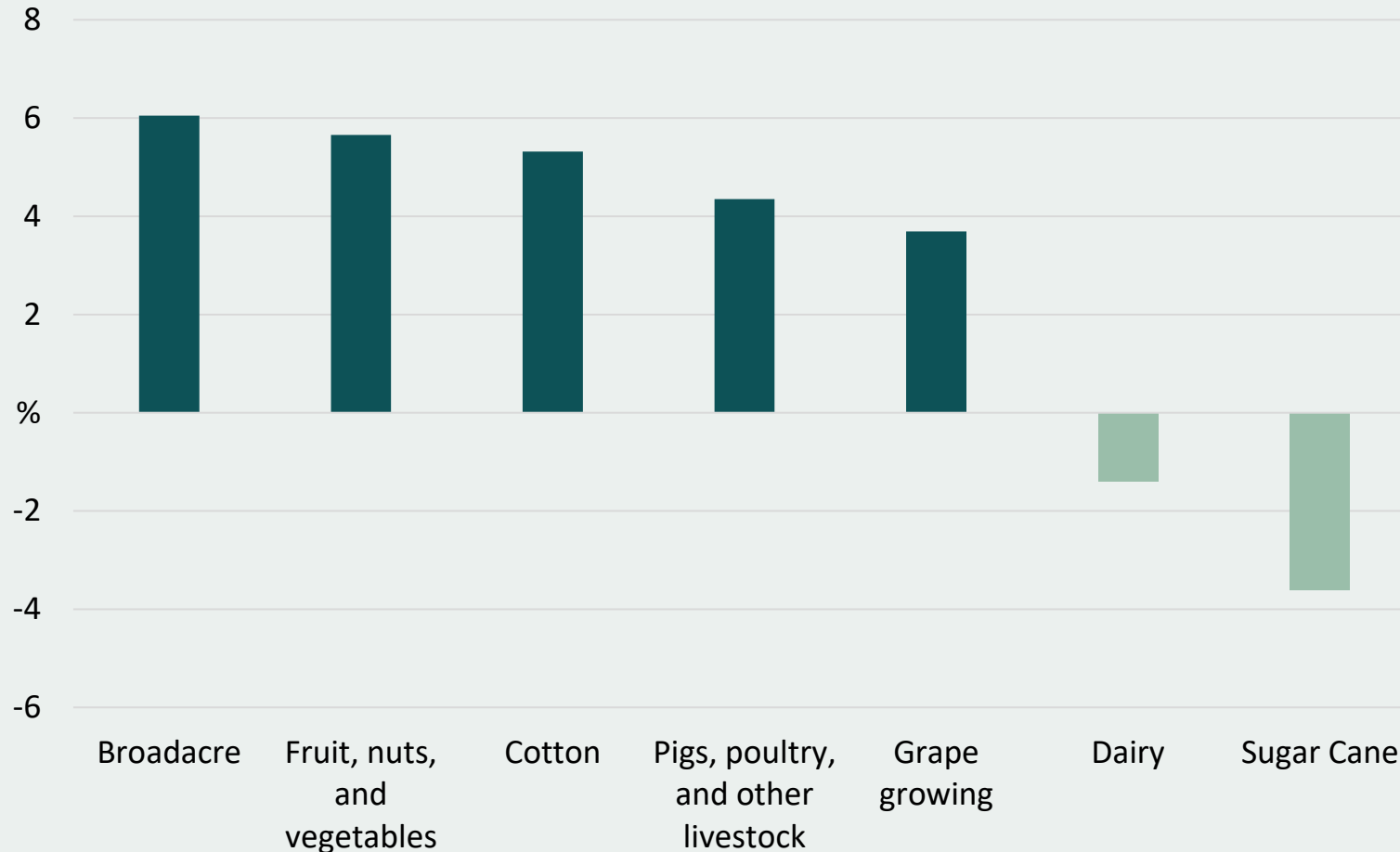
# Aggregate new investment – excluding land



# Share of non-land investment by farm size

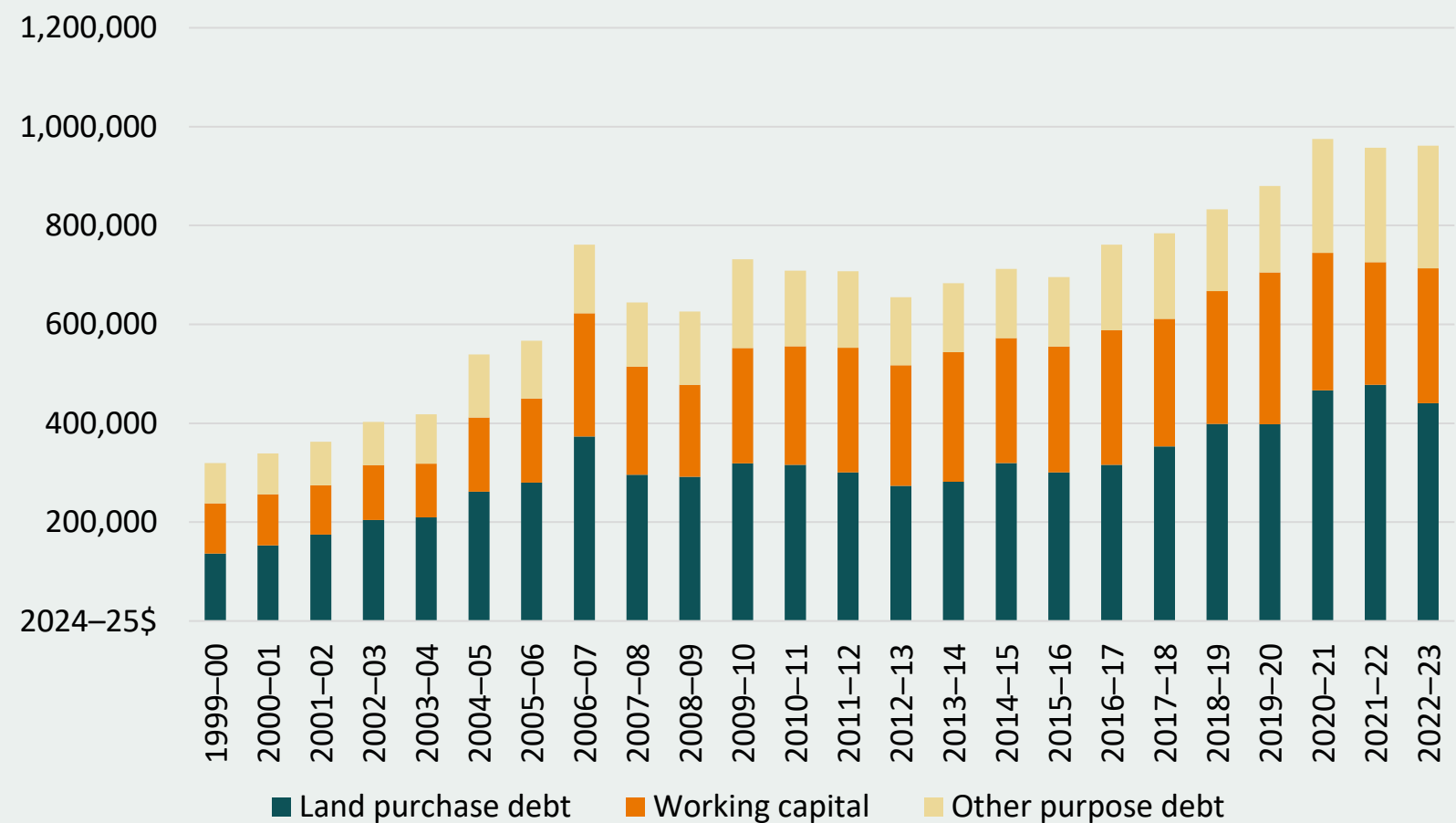


# Average annual change in debt – 2016–17 to 2022–23, by industry





# Components of debt, broadacre and dairy farms

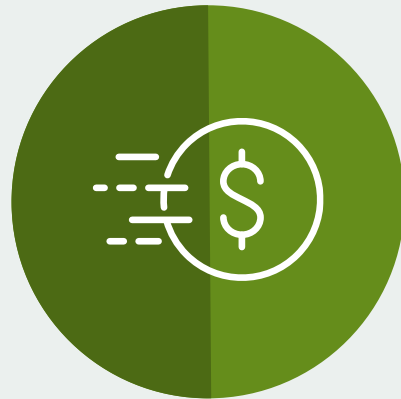




# Distribution of farms by debt



**5% of farms**  
hold 40% of debt



**50% of farms**  
have little/no debt

# Summary



Growth in aggregate investment



Investment dominated by large farms



Importance of new technologies

