



Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Email: aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

3 January 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Milk Mark Bill

The Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation Ltd (QDO) is grateful for the opportunity to make this submission to the Milk Mark Bill. The QDO is the peak industry organisation representing the interests of dairy farmers in Queensland. The QDO is a member of the Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) and the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF). QDO strongly supports the Milk Mark Bill which should have a positive impact on Queensland dairy farmers. QDO has assisted Mr Knuth and the Katter Party develop the Milk Mark Bill and introduce it into parliament.

The Queensland dairy industry is almost entirely domestic-focussed with over 95% of milk produced in Queensland being sold as fresh white milk in Queensland. Actions of major retailers are the major driver of the returns, or lack thereof, on Queensland dairy farms. The impact of \$1 per litre milk on the dairy industry in Queensland has been extremely negative. In 2010 before \$1/L milk was introduced there were 621 dairy farmers in Queensland while today there are 429. In 2010 milk production was 530ML while in 2015/16 it has fallen to 407ML largely due to \$1/L milk.

The milk mark bill will play a major role in providing transparency for consumers in Queensland. It will allow consumers to make milk purchasing decisions with full knowledge of how ethically and responsibly milk is sourced. The QDO stands ready to provide any further information and support required to ensure the Milk Mark Bill is supported by all parties.

Yours Sincerely

Brian Tessmann
President
Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation Ltd