



Speech by

**Dr PETER PRENZLER**

**MEMBER FOR LOCKYER**

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Hansard 19 November 1998

**PRIMARY INDUSTRIES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Dr PRENZLER** (Lockyer—ONP) (5.12 p.m.): I have only a few comments to make on the Primary Industries Legislation Amendment Bill. The Bill addresses some issues that are important to the long-term viability of the beef industry—an industry that is so vitally important to the economic wellbeing of the State and the nation.

In relation to amendments to the Agricultural Standards Act 1994, whilst I have no doubt that we must take whatever measures are absolutely necessary to protect our export markets, including stringent measures to avoid pesticide residue problems, I must admit to having some concerns about proposed new section 14A(3)(f), which I believe has embedded in it the potential to broaden the scope of the clause and include unnecessarily onerous conditions in relation to quality assurance considerations. In our country today, many family-operated cattle producing enterprises are, at best, marginal. Again, I emphasise that we must acknowledge the importance of protecting export markets, but we also have an obligation to protect cattle producers from unnecessary and unaffordable cost imposts. One Nation will support the Bill. However, in the Committee stage of the Bill we will move to delete proposed new section 14A(3)(f).

One Nation supports some of the proposed changes to the Brands Act 1915. We believe that cheek branding is unacceptable from an animal welfare point of view. It is a very cruel and unwarranted method of branding. The elimination of the practice is a step in the right direction.

I am well aware of the damage done to hides by branding, especially rib branding which damages the prime area of the hide. The elimination of rib branding would be of considerable benefit to the hide industry. I sincerely hope that that benefit would be passed back to cattle producers through increased prices for stock. Until that happens, I will not support this proposal. However, if returns to producers were increased, certainly the addition of extra branding positions in the lower-value areas of the hide would further minimise losses to the industry from hide damage.

In relation to the City of Brisbane Market Act 1960, I believe that opportunities for a more diverse wholesale marketing structure will lead to price benefits for fruit and vegetable growers. Any initiative that encourages improved returns will be beneficial to whole communities. Most small croppers are family-owned businesses and to improve their returns will have flow-on benefits for their local communities.

Amendments to the Forestry Act 1959 will provide continued log supply to millers. Given the importance of this industry to so many Queensland regional centres, the amendment deserves our support.

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