




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sale of Public Assets

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (3.24 pm): Yesterday I tabled a petition on behalf of 500 residents of the Tablelands Regional Council area. It states—

The Petition of the residents of Tablelands Regional Council local government area wish to draw to the attention of the House the closure of the “old Agricultural College” facility on Tinaroo Creek Road Mareeba.

This currently unutilised asset should not be sold off by the Queensland Government and should be retained and used as a specialised training hub to support and promote local industry.

The “Old Agricultural College” has a long history of providing quality training in Far North Queensland. The facility has extensive specialised infrastructure that could be utilised by the many interested organisations for training, education and research for Queensland industry.

We the residents of the Tablelands Regional council, call on the State Government to halt any decisions to sell the facility, and reinvigorate the Old Agricultural College to establish the Mareeba Training Hub.

This is very simple. This is an iconic facility that provided research and extension for that region. It is important that that facility is not sold off, that that asset is not sold off and the proceeds used to fill the Treasury coffers, when it could be used to benefit the community. This is something that the region is very, very passionate at—securing and saving this asset, to be used for research and extension and, likewise, to give an opportunity for the local training facilities that are based on the Tablelands to also be able to access and use that facility where they can train people for the benefit of that area. It is a massive agricultural area and, likewise, it is an area where education is needed.

It is important that we retain our assets. We have seen what has happened when Queensland Rail was sold, where \$1.1 billion could have been going into state revenue right at this moment and, likewise, with the sale of our forestries. We have seen the railway from Townsville to Mount Isa—

Mr Rickuss: Your Labor mates sold all of them.

Mr KNUTH: That was sold; that is right. We saw the LNP government sit here until four o'clock in the morning and condemn the Labor government for that sale, but they are frothing at the mouth to sell our energy assets and they are frothing at the mouth to sell the water assets. They are frothing at the mouth because it is in the DNA of the LNP to sell assets, and they are frothing at the mouth. Why are they shedding crocodile tears? They are getting eight of 10 preferences, yet they are shedding crocodile tears because they believe they are born to rule. How dare you—

(Time expired)