




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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CHICKEN MEAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.06 pm): I rise in the House today to support the Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill 2014. I thank the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon. John McVeigh, for bringing this sensible bill before the House. Again I have the opportunity to stand in this great House and compliment a minister on practical, common-sense legislative changes that not only reduce red tape and regulation but also support businesses getting on with what they do best, which is doing business and increasing the economy of Queensland.

I also thank my colleague the member for Lockyer, who is the chair of the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee, for reviewing the bill. I note the committee recommends that the bill be passed and that the changes in this bill have the full support of the chicken meat industry. This is an industry which I am extremely keen to support because so many of Queensland's chicken meat growers are based in the great electorate of Nanango. In fact, 10 chicken farms are located in the southern part of the Nanango electorate within the Somerset region, with two more going through the process of being approved and being built very soon. Not only is this a very important industry for Queensland as a whole; it is extremely important to the viability of the Nanango electorate.

I had the opportunity to visit a chicken meat farm recently—the Browns' farm near Coominya—and it was fascinating. This is a new farm that has been built to modern standards. I congratulate this family on everything they are doing to support the industry. It was amazing to see the good welfare of the chickens, how they cool their sheds and how often the hay that the chickens nestle in gets removed. It was a really great opportunity. I encourage the Minister for Agriculture to accept the invitation to visit one of the chicken meat farms based in the southern part of my electorate which produce so much for the industry which employs some 4,000 people and produces approximately 120 million birds each year. This great industry for the agricultural sector of our economy produces approximately \$630 million in gross value of production to Queensland's economy. This is really important, because this is what our government is all about. It is about increasing the viability of the state by growing our four pillars. Agriculture is a very important pillar of the Queensland economy.

The chicken industry has grown an average of about five per cent per annum over the past five years. What our government is doing is quite simply something that those opposite in the Labor Party should have done many, many years ago. There was a review that happened I believe twice through the previous Labor government, but how typical is it that nothing came of that? Our government has—

Dr McVeigh: They were just too chicken.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They were too chicken—I will take that interjection from the honourable minister. It appears that they were too chicken, yet this is a bill that has been supported by the Labor Party, it has been supported by the industry and it is common sense. I really am proud to be a part of this government and I am proud to be able to stand up here and support a minister on just simple, common-sense legislation. I encourage more common-sense actions, and the repeal of some of these nonsensical pieces of legislation will go towards our goal of reducing red tape by 20 per cent. All of the ministers are working extremely hard to reach that admirable goal. I am extremely proud

that, once again, our government has listened to the people of Queensland. We have listened to the industry and we have made changes that the industry actually supports. This is a government—

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am not taking interjections. This is a can-do government that is growing the economy of Queensland to create more jobs and to create industries in the wonderful regions like the Somerset and the northern part of the Nanango electorate as well. Maybe there are people out there who could build another chicken farm, or maybe we could have another processing plant within the electorate of Nanango. I think this is a great idea and I am quite sure the constituents in the Nanango electorate would be happy to support that idea. Our electorate comes so close to the urban areas of South-East Queensland, so that affects the transport issues that need to be considered when looking at developing an industry like this. The Nanango electorate is an ideal spot. I think that is a great idea and I think it is one I am going to work on because the Somerset is ideally placed with transport, with wonderful land and with great access to water.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am not taking that interjection from the member for Beaudesert; I think the Nanango electorate would be a perfect spot. I will wrap up by saying that this is another example of our government delivering on the promise of building a strong, four-pillar economy and providing job security and opportunities for this great state. I support the amendments in the bill because the ultimate repeal of the Chicken Meat Industry Committee Act 1976 will remove government red tape and assist this industry to grow even further.