




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

Record of Proceedings, 19 March 2014

CHICKEN MEAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (4.58 pm): I rise to support the Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill 2014. I have to say that I do have chicken farms in my electorate—and I am quite proud of that because I am a big supporter of the chicken and likewise the egg—and I acknowledge their contribution.

Mr Cox: What came first?

Mr KNUTH: I do not know. Has anyone come up with a theory yet?

The policy objectives of this bill are to abolish the Chicken Meat Industry Committee and remove the legislative framework for collective bargaining that is provided under the Chicken Meat Industry Committee Act 1976. The act provides a legislative framework, which includes the establishment of the committee, for the stabilisation of the chicken meat industry in Queensland. The stabilisation is given effect through collective bargaining negotiations between chicken meat growers and chicken meat processors that is specifically authorised for the purposes of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010. The ACCC has granted an authorisation to the Queensland Chicken Growers Association to enter into collective bargaining negotiations, which effectively negates the need for a legislative framework under the CMIC Act.

This is very important. There is no greater form of negotiations than collective bargaining. I am sure that chicken meat processors and chicken meat growers will negotiate to ensure they get the best outcomes and the best prices, and likewise chicken meat processors get the best chicken meat at an affordable price across-the-board to utilise for consumers. Collective bargaining for farmers is something that I believe in very much. It is an old Country Party policy. It is one of the reasons why the Country Party formed in the early 19th century.

I know from being a member of the committee that virtually nothing controversial was raised. As far as I know, there was also very little by way of argument in the submissions. There was no need for a public hearing as there was universal support across-the-board. That is so important to us all.

I want to finish on this note. I was brought up in Collinsville. In the 1960s and early 1970s there was what we called chicken week. Every Friday we would get a chook. Everyone would race into the co-op and get their chicken. At that time we lived a lot on black duck, the odd squatter and sometimes turkey. I can recall when driving to Townsville my father saying, 'Boys, what is that? Kentucky Fried.' We had never seen or heard it before. When we first tasted Kentucky Fried we thought, my goodness, this is the best thing. It was like all our Christmases at once. Every time we went to Townsville all we thought of was Kentucky Fried Chicken. I commend this good bill to the House.