




Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

National Parks, Grazing Leases

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.46 pm): The seat of Gregory is a powerhouse for the Queensland beef industry—like many seats across Queensland including Gympie, Nanango and Warrego—and today I want to speak about one particular success story in the seat of Gregory with the beef industry which is being put at risk by the Palaszczuk government's inability to provide businesses with certainty and practical understanding. Goathlands is a certified organic grazing property long operated by Peter Mayne and his family, especially son Struan and his partner Hanna. In addition to being organically certified, the Maynes also abide by the Global Animal Partnership code of practice, and I table a certificate of compliance that they have on their property.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 5 August 2014, titled 'Certificate of Compliance—Australian Certified Organic—Peter Mayne Family Trust Partnership' [[1123](#)].

This requires annual audits which check, among other things, that there has been no use of poisons, including on their animals, no poison sprays and no dingo baiting. As a part of this sustainable practice, for many years a grazing lease over a section of the adjoining Carnarvon National Park has formed part of their successful business plan. Their lease is 50,000 acres which they use as one paddock so there are no fences to interfere with the wildlife, and I table a photo of a paddock on the Mayne's property.

Tabled paper: Photograph, undated, of grazing paddock at Goathlands, Springsure [[1124](#)].

Their sustainable strategy manages pastures and ground cover through rotational grazing and it is here that the park lease plays a small but vital role. It carries over 500 head of cows for three to four months of the year. Other than that, it is left stock free. The limited grazing is vital to Goathlands's business model. What does Queensland get in return? Additional crown rents paid. Queenslanders also receive stewardship over the land for no taxpayer dollar outlay. They also manage the feral pests and weeds on the property and pay local government rates. While this part of Queensland is very beautiful, it is also rugged. The sustainable model manages both bushfire and erosion by ensuring there is always optimum ground cover. Grazing for that crucial three to four months ensures that the fuel load does not become a hazard.

The concern is that the Maynes have been advised by the department that their lease will not be renewed when it expires in March next year. They were given no explanation as to why, even though Queensland is suffering a severe drought and this decision will compromise their farming model. I made representations to the Minister for Environment in July and received a reply in which Minister Miles advised that the department will consider the lease further once the government's position on grazing in national parks is confirmed. However, in April—some months prior—he was broadcast on ABC stating—

It's not our intention to continue renewing leases as the previous government intended to do.

I ask the minister for certainty for my constituents and for some compassion. I believe these photographs show that the Mayne's stewardship has been absolutely outstanding and they deserve every consideration—

(Time expired)