




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MOTION: MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.22 pm): If that was an audition to be the next minister for agriculture, goodness me! God help the agricultural industry in Queensland! I understand that the member lives in Mackay and at least represents a regional area. I hope and pray that, when she holds her first media conference with the camera in front of her, unlike the former minister for agriculture, the member for Bundaberg, she does not say that she once had a vegie garden. If that is the member's first comment, the industry is never going to respect her.

Mr Seeney: Tell them about your pot plants.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The member should not talk about her pot plants. She should not tell them that she goes shopping at Woolies and that is where she gets her vegies. The member should do a bit of research.

For the sake of the agriculture industry in Queensland, the members on this side of the House have been hoping and praying that we will get a minister to represent the industry sometime soon. I have worked it out. The reason we do not have an agriculture minister appointed yet is that those incompetents opposite have to swot up for the job. They need to learn their lines. They have to practise. They have to buy their RM Williams clothes. They have to understand the difference between a heifer and a bull. It is incredible what they have to learn to get up to speed. We know that the members opposite have no idea.

Queensland has had three agricultural ministers in 18 months. It is no wonder the leaders of rural and regional industries are shaking their heads. I know that they shook their heads over the last couple of appointments. Mr Maudsley of AgForce said, 'Honestly, I don't know how Labor Party politics plays out. I don't know if it's the most qualified person or the Left of the party, or the Right of the party, or what it will be.' It is whomever has done the most swotting. They may sit for their exam tonight. This week, the member for Keppel has been madly researching agriculture. The honourable member for Morayfield has been wearing checked shirts all week, trying to get the feel for it. Yet even if they think that they should be the minister for agriculture, every single member on that side of the House voted in this House for the vegetation management laws.

This side of the House enabled common-sense vegetation management laws to support the rural and regional industries of Queensland. Why do the members opposite hate farmers? Why do they hate anyone who has a little bit of get up and go and wants to make a dollar for themselves in rural industries? Those incompetents opposite do not go to the federal government asking for funding for dams. They do not want to build dams. Look at Rookwood Weir: the acting minister for agriculture has his head in the sand about that one. In relation to beef roads, the minister would not even apply for the funding. He did not even get the letter off his desk. When we debated the motion in relation to beef roads, he had no idea. There is no support at all for rural and regional Queensland from those opposite.

I would like to talk about the fact that it was the LNP that put together the department of agriculture. During the Beattie and Bligh years, the department was completely gutted. I heard the member for Mackay talk about the agricultural colleges. It was those incompetents opposite who got rid of the agricultural colleges. The Labor Party does not support agricultural education at all.

Most insulting is what the fishing industry thinks of those members opposite. As for forestry, those guys opposite did not even put the 'F' in DAF. They took it away. The viable forestry industry of Queensland does not even get represented. It is about time. It is a week later. When is this incompetent Premier going to appoint a minister for agriculture for this great state?