




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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ADJOURNMENT

Dairy Farmers; Gregory Developmental Road

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (10.43 pm): Back in 2000 there were 1,500 dairy farmers. In 2013 I tabled the Milk Pricing (Fair Milk Mark) Bill, which was going to give dairy farmers a fair price for the milk that they produced. A fair milk mark would also go on a milk bottle to show Queenslanders that those farmers were paid a fair price and that if they bought that type of milk they would know they are helping to preserve the dairy-farming industry in Queensland. There are now around 440 dairy farmers.

I do appreciate the fact that the Minister for Corrective Services stepped in after I advised him that the prisons across this state were using UHT milk from New Zealand. We appreciate the fact that the minister stepped in. However, UHT milk is used in departments right across this state. I have spoken to the Premier about this. We want to protect the sustainability of the milk industry right now. When we look back and see that in 2000 there were 1,500 and we now have 430 dairy farmers, the fact that that correctional centre has been able to provide local fresh milk has made a hell of a lot of difference on the Atherton Tablelands. We are saying that we are serious about this. We want to see fresh milk delivered to local departments so they use fresh milk from Queensland and local dairy farmers, not milk from overseas.

I am also disappointed because I have spoken a number of times to the Minister for Main Roads and asked him to come to Charters Towers to look at the Gregory Developmental Road. The previous Labor government and Albanese gave \$150 million over five years, but it has been three years and that \$150 million has all been spent. So for the last two or three years, 39 kilometres of unsealed road has just been sitting there waiting to be sealed. It also crosses creeks. We want to ensure that this is made into an island highway because those rural communities need jobs and they need people and tourists to stop in their towns. However, they cannot stop in those towns if Cape River is flooding. They cannot stop in those towns if they know they will be hit head-on by B-triples. When we are talking about a single-lane highway and there are triple road trains coming right at you, there is no way in the world those people are going to use that road.

All we are saying is that there are 39 kilometres of road to be sealed, finished once and for all. That is 39 kilometres out of 450 kilometres. That will bring people from the south. People can come from Rockhampton, go to Emerald and to Clermont, through to Charters Towers, up to Mount Garnet, through to the Atherton Tablelands. Cape River crosses between Charters Towers and Clermont and one river crossing needs to be upgraded with a bridge. That will prevent everyone being stuck at that bridge.