



Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**


**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Dairy Industry**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (6.50 pm): Dairy farmers are one of our most valued professions. A survey revealed that 89 per cent of consumers who were polled were prepared to pay extra for a litre of milk to ensure that we have a sustainable dairy industry. Whether it is 40 degrees or four degrees below zero, dairy farmers are out in the paddock working day and night week in, week out providing a fantastic product—that is, milk for cereal, for milkshakes, for cuppas. We need to support our dairy farmers. In the year 2000 there were 1,500 dairy farmers. There are now 430. When I tabled the fair milk mark bill in 2013 there were 540 dairy farmers. By the time the bill was debated in parliament, there were 496 dairy farmers. During the time it took for that bill to be debated, we had lost 44 dairy farmers. That bill was very simple—that is, if farmers were paid a fair price above the cost of production then a fair milk mark would go on a bottle which would reveal to consumers in shops or supermarkets that farmers are paid a fair price, that it was fresh milk and that it was Queensland milk. It was disappointing that the fair milk mark bill was voted down.

There are many restrictions out there and farmers are after a sustainable pricing margin. In the future I will be tabling a bill in this parliament, but it is a great shame that in this country we have to see our dairy industry and its dairy farmers on their knees before politicians can say that they are prepared to help them. I will be introducing a bill that will ensure that consumers will know when they have purchased Queensland pure fresh milk and that farmers are paid a fair price. I appreciate the fact that the Premier responded to my complaint that Lotus Glen prison was importing UHT milk and I am very pleased that the Premier stepped in to ensure that that prison and other prisons and also government departments were not importing UHT milk but providing fresh local milk. While on the subject of Lotus Glen prison, it provides services that support the community such as the Lotus Glen laundry. It continues to provide that service, but all of the other services have been shut down and now Lotus Glen's weekend service has closed.