




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR HILL

Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Dairy Industry; Roads

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.25 pm): Today I was bitterly disappointed that the state government rejected my motion for a debate to support the Queensland dairy industry by calling for the immediate introduction of a 10 cent per litre levy on the price of milk sold in supermarkets. We as a House should be united in the call to condemn any supermarket or processor who does not agree to implement the scheme and pass on the levy in full to our dairy farmers. This shows the utmost contempt this government has towards our farmers.

A petition was launched only three weeks ago by Queensland dairy organisations and already has over 100,000 signatures. This is a strong message from the public that they want action from the government.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hill, I have had advice from the Clerk to suggest that the matter you are referring to is on the *Notice Paper* and as such what you may be doing if you continue is anticipating debate on that motion. I would strongly suggest that you cease your contribution along that line as it relates to that motion and choose your words carefully going forward.

Mr KNUTH: I bring to the attention of the House the Millaa Millaa to Malanda Road. Contractors from the south and Western Australia are receiving government tenders to upgrade our roads, only to have to come back and do those roads over and over again. We need to ensure that local contractors tender for and receive local government contracts because they understand the region and the weather conditions. When local contractors are awarded these tenders the money goes back to the local communities. Western Australian companies that are receiving these government tenders do not have a clue. They do a shocking job and three months later we have the same problem. As I have said a number of times, we need to ensure that we have local contractors doing local jobs.

I thank the minister for the \$5 million we received for the Upper Barron Road. Local contractors performed state-of-the-art work on that road. We also need to have funds for the Palmerston Highway. It is a major arterial route that is used by Tablelanders and coastal people. There are a massive number of trucks that pour up and down that road day in, day out. We are happy to have the \$4.8 million, but it needs \$20 million. It is important that those roads receive funding support from the government and that local contractors are awarded those jobs. I have organised meetings with local contractors and Main Roads. I hope that the minister can provide support at those meetings to resolve this problem.