




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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ADJOURNMENT

Animal Activists

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.25 pm): Another Darling Downs farm is set to be targeted by a group of animal activists on 8 April. This comes after the recent invasion of a family owned and operated feedlot and dairy near Millmerran by over 100 vegan protestors from the group Animal Activists Collective who illegally entered the private property. Not only was this invasion breaking the trespass laws; it also created a risk to biosecurity protocols and was a distressing event for the family and staff of Lemontree Feedlot.

The definition of trespass is: someone enters your private property without your permission and then refuses your requests to leave. This is exactly what these animal activists did last week. They entered private property and when asked to leave they refused. I am certain if that happened in your home or place of work you would be outraged.

The farming industry has to adhere to strict industry best practice regulations to ensure the safety and wellbeing of livestock and staff is a priority. It is similarly important that the biosecurity of any given farming enterprise is not compromised. That is why rigorous biosecurity protocols are in place. The risk to the agricultural industry if a breach does occur has the potential to cause ramifications that our economy cannot afford and certainly not an individual farmer.

The animal activist movement has gained momentum and is growing at a rapid rate. These groups see this as a social justice issue. What they do not understand is that no farmer wants any stress to be placed on their livestock. Stress is detrimental to the livestock's development and increases the cost of production. Additionally, it is very upsetting for those responsible for the care and welfare of the animals.

Why should farmers have to tolerate animal activists trespassing on their private property when they are conducting their businesses within the regulations, restrictions and requirements of that industry? One of the primary roles of government is to protect its citizens and enforce the laws of this state. It is an offence under the current laws of this state to breach our biosecurity laws and those laws need to be enforced.

Due to the high number of intense cattle, pork and poultry enterprises located in Condamine, I hold grave concerns for the personal safety of the owners and workers on these enterprises if they are the target of planned and unprovoked attacks. I call on the Palaszczuk government to strengthen the laws and penalties that apply to individuals or groups found to be trespassing on private property before there is a major breach of biosecurity protocols that our state's economy can ill afford and to assure a safe environment for landholders, their families and staff who live and work there.