




Speech By
Stephen Andrew

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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ADJOURNMENT

Regenerative Agriculture

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (7.19 pm): I would like to touch on a presentation that I made recently in parliament. Nine crossbench members, as well as members from the LNP and Labor, attended my regenerative agriculture presentation. Today the member for Algester talked about the reef. It is very important that we look at regenerative agriculture for Queensland, not just for the banana and cane farmers but for everything that we do in agriculture. I thank John and Mike Attard for giving the presentation. I acknowledge Michael Alexander, whose property has six kilometres of frontage along the Fitzroy River. They do an amazing job of looking after the environment. They do some things that are totally out the box, as far as making sure that they retain moisture in their soil. Our regenerative agriculture proposal will help Queensland to deal with drought over a longer period. It will not allow us to go into drought easier, but it will take us out of drought in a shorter space of time. That is a very important thing, because it means that we do not have to build dams right now as we can retain moisture in the paddocks that we have.

One of the biggest growers around the Mackay district is coming online to implement regenerative agriculture in Kalaka, in my electorate. The area has been set up to drain straight onto the Dugong Sanctuary. It is a great step forward to implement this process on what is basically one-year-old virgin ground with a lot of trace elements still in the soil. We will stop runoff to the sanctuary and ensure that we preserve the seagrass for the dugongs at the front of Clairview. That is what we should be doing.

We have been using regenerative agriculture in the islands for years. The Speaker and I have just gone back to have a look at that. It is amazing. I think it is Queensland's answer to saving the reef. I think it is the answer for a lot of Queensland farmers. I believe it is another key factor in preserving the health of Queensland going forward. It is a very exciting thing, which is why I wanted to speak about the issue today.