




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 5 February 2020

MOTION

Maleny Dairies

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. notes the terms of ePetition 3268: Queensland residents draw to the attention of the House the decision by the Palaszczuk government that saw Maleny Dairies, a Queensland owned and operated company, miss out on a supply contract for Metro North hospitals that was instead awarded to French and Chinese companies. This is in defiance of the government's 'Buy Queensland Policy'. The decision will have a significant impact on Maleny Dairies that would have used the contract to secure another Queensland owned dairy farming family and create jobs within that farm, working towards securing the future of the Queensland dairy industry; and
2. calls on the Palaszczuk government to review the decision, including awarding at least a portion of the supply contract to Maleny Dairies, a proud Queensland owned and operated company.

Mr Deputy Speaker, 12,921 Queenslanders agree that if you were going to spruik a Buy Queensland policy you have to actually buy Queensland; 12,921 Queenslanders agree that the Palaszczuk government has used Maleny Dairies to market that policy; 12,921 Queenslanders agree that the Palaszczuk Labor government encouraged Maleny Dairies to apply for the contract to provide dairy products to the Metro North Hospital and Health Service; 12,921 Queenslanders are appalled that those contracts have since been awarded to foreign owned Dairies companies; and 12,921 Queenslanders call on the Premier to review this contract and give Maleny Dairies a fair go.

Let us be clear from the start. As Ross Hopper, owner of Maleny Dairies said, we are not squealing because we missed out this contract, we are squealing because Queensland missed out on this contract. Today's announcement by Lactalis that they are closing their Rockhampton facility and transferring yoghurt production from their South Brisbane facility to Tasmania and Victoria realises our worst fears. Not only do the proceeds of this contract go overseas, the patients in metro north will not even be consuming Queensland dairy products. Quite frankly, the Buy Queensland policy should be renamed the 'Bye Bye Queensland' policy.

Before continuing let me debunk one of the government's counterclaims. Yes, the successful tenderers Lactalis and Lion have Queensland dairy farmers as suppliers. I, Maleny Dairies and the LNP are not anti those farmers, nor indeed those companies. As has been aired, yes, we have previously awarded contracts to those same companies, but please also be clear that not at any stage did Maleny Dairies tender for those previous contracts. Why? Because they knew they were being assessed on price, not on a so-called Buy Queensland policy.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order!

Mr POWELL: Let us look at this Buy Queensland—or 'Bye Bye Queensland'—policy. The policy was launched at Sirromet winery to great fanfare, where the Minister for Public Works even sought the involvement of and photos with representatives from Maleny Dairies. The minister and the Premier did the same when promoting the policy with representatives from Maleny Dairies at the Ekka. The Palaszczuk government's own website says—

In purchasing Queensland food and beverages, you can:

- support local businesses and jobs
- reduce transport and your carbon footprint
- support regional Queensland.

That is the nub of the issue. Maleny Dairies ticks all those boxes. It is truly local: local suppliers, produced locally, locally owned and the profits go back to the local community. Guess what? They even have almost the identical number of suppliers in the catchment of Metro North Hospital and Health Service as the successful tenderer does. Lactalis and Lion tick most of those boxes, but they are not local. If you click on the Queensland government Food and Beverage Supplier Directory and filter by 'dairy' who comes up first? Maleny Dairies. Where are Lactalis and Lion? Nowhere to be seen.

Ms Grace: Put Pauls in and see what comes up first.

Mr POWELL: No, not in there. They did not turn up to the launch at Sirromet and they did not turn up to the Ekka. This policy is not working. How Maleny Dairies have been treated must serve as a warning to all those other Queensland owned and operated businesses that this government has used to sell its policy. Despite what they are being told, the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to award contracts on price alone. The policy may say that for each procurement opportunity at least one regional and one Queensland supplier where possible is invited to submit a tender or quote, but under this government's application of the policy do not expect to actually be awarded a contract. They are simply there to make up the numbers. If Maleny Dairies had been told it was on price or product range they would not have tendered because they knew they could not compete. They were sucked in by this government to sell its 'Bye Bye Queensland' policy and I want to make sure that no other Queensland company gets ripped off in the same way.