



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**

**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 February 2020

**MOTION**

**Maleny Dairies**

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise tonight to speak against the motion. We have had some seriously ridiculous motions in the past from those opposite over the years—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order, members! There is no need for that interjection.

**Mr BUTCHER:** I only just stood up.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, order! I do not need your commentary.

**Mr BUTCHER:** The member for Glass House really tops the lot tonight. The member is asking the parliament to call on this government to intervene in a tender process that was properly conducted at arm's length by a statutory body in order to give preferential treatment and a lucrative contract to a business in his own electorate. Anyone else would call that pork-barrelling. We have seen what happens to those opposite with pork-barrelling, particularly here in Queensland—

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nicklin, I think that might be a warning for you, given the number of times I have already cautioned you.

**Mr BUTCHER:**—yet that is what the member's motion tonight is asking the parliament to do. Let's be clear: the tender awarded by the Metro North Hospital and Health Service to Lactalis Australia, the parent company of Pauls, was a properly constituted tender and complies with the government's Buy Queensland procurement policy. Pauls is a local supplier of milk for metro north, with workers employed within a 125-kilometre radius of where the goods will be supplied from.

They are the biggest buyer bar none of unprocessed milk from Queensland dairies and the largest milk processor in Queensland. They draw from 141 Queensland owned family farms, 16 of which, you guessed it, are in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate. It is a shame that she is not here to hear this. There are 16 local families in her electorate of Nanango who supply milk to Pauls—

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is disorderly to refer to the absence of a member from the chamber. I ask you to so rule.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for pointing that out. Member for Gladstone, I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BUTCHER:** I withdraw. On one hand, we have the member for Glass House wanting parliament to support his pork-barrelling attempt and on the other hand we have the member for Nanango, the opposition leader and so-called wannabe Premier here in Queensland, happy to see jobs go from her local electorate. Surely we have never before had an opposition leader actively opposed to projects and jobs in their very own electorate.

It is extraordinary that day after day the Leader of the Opposition stands up and says no to jobs in Nanango, no to jobs for our farmers and no to jobs for Queenslanders. For the last few weeks here in Queensland, she has been standing up demanding that the Palaszczuk government tears up this contract and gives it to Maleny Dairies. She is asking us to rip the existing contract out of the hands of 141 Queensland dairy farmers, every single one of which is family run and owned by Queensland people. She is ignoring the interests of 700 Queenslanders who work for Pauls, a quintessential Queensland company based right across the river in South Brisbane—all in pursuit of some political points against the government.

The Leader of the Opposition has not learned a thing since she sat beside Campbell Newman sacking Queenslanders, selling our assets and cutting our services here in Queensland. This is not the first time we have seen the Leader of the Opposition stand up and demand we actually take jobs away from the people of Nanango. She did not want us to build a new mine in her electorate. She did not want us to build a solar farm in her electorate. Now she wants to take contracts away from those 16 dairy farmers in her own electorate of Nanango who supply to Pauls. The opposition leader is always the first to stand up and complain, whinge and make a fuss. I do not think we have ever actually seen her support anything in Nanango.

Last year the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services informed the House he launched construction for the Kingaroy Hospital's redevelopment. He was joined by councillors and the hospital and health board, but guess who was not there. You could say it was a big deal, but who was missing? It was the local member who was not there to deliver for her community. The Leader of the Opposition and member for Nanango begged the minister to be involved in that project, but guess what? There was an empty chair where the member was supposed to be sitting and she could not be bothered to even rock up. It was a \$70 million investment in her community, a state-of-the-art new hospital, but all there was to be seen of the Leader of the Opposition was an empty chair. The opposition have embarrassed themselves tonight with this motion and I urge the House to oppose it.