




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 5 February 2020

MOTION

Maleny Dairies

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.26 pm): I rise this evening to oppose the private member's motion moved by the member for Glass House and welcome the opportunity to clarify some points put on the record by the LNP. The public debate about this tender process has been reckless and has sought to pit farmer against farmer through a xenophobic political stunt that has a clear agenda of obtaining personal data from Queenslanders.

The motion refers to e-petition No. 3268 but we know many Queenslanders misled by the LNP's information in this space signed on to a non-parliamentary petition hosted on a third-party server of a contracted company located in another country. Not only did the LNP misrepresent the substance of the petition, they also misled signatories about the process. The LNP have been drumming up concern and 10,000 signatures to have this issue debated in parliament, yet sessional orders in this parliament contain no such provision. Not content with supporting mineral mining, it seems the LNP extend their extractive obsessions to data mining Queenslanders for their personal information.

We all know Queensland farmers have been doing it tough and that recent rains have done little to ease the drought in our state's worst affected areas. We love our Queensland farmers and we will always back them in—that is what our Buy Queensland policy does and that is what has been done with this contract. It is a disgrace that it has been misrepresented by the LNP in the public arena and by this motion tonight.

Pauls is the milk I grew up on and it is the milk one would find in my fridge today because I know they provide a livelihood for 141 of our local, family owned and operated dairy farms. Pauls purchase just shy of half of our state's raw milk. Pauls provide more than 600 workers with safe and secure working environments. They are a good employer and Pauls has been providing Queenslanders with quality dairy products for generations.

Let us think this beat-up through. A company tenders for a contract. A company cannot supply the requirements of that contract. A company is not successful in that contract. Then the company goes public with a political and xenophobic attack. I may have a very black and white view of this, but you can either supply the contract or you cannot.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! Member for Buderim, you are very close to being warned, as is the member for Ninderry.

Ms BOYD: Even if you can, you need to be the best value for Queenslanders' dollars. To present this in any other way is a sad state of affairs. We are not dealing with hypotheticals here: real Queensland hospital patients need real Queensland milk. The suggestion contained in this motion is

that we should take a chance—that we should award a government tender and spend taxpayers' money on an option that may not be the best use of money, that may not be able to supply patients' dietary requirements but that special dispensation should be offered anyway.

The suggestion is that political intervention should favour one Queensland based milk supplier over another Queensland based milk supplier—never mind the expense or capacity to meet the contract and regardless of the knock-on impacts. This is the approach that the LNP opposition in this state backs—that we should roll the dice with an important supply contract in Queensland hospitals. It provides a glimpse into the bad old days of Joh and Newman and sends a shiver down my spine.

Our state's dairy industry needs us. They need leadership from us. They do not need us to use them as a political football. I thank the President of the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation, Brian Tessmann, who called this stunt out as sensationalist, dangerous and divisive in its nature. I say this to the opposition: let's bring Queenslanders together instead of trying to divide and turn us against each other. Our farming sector need us. They need our leadership and they need our unification; they do not need motions like this.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Ninderry! Sorry—member for Nicklin!

Ms BOYD: They do not need motions like this and they do not need pepped up political stunts as we have seen over this last month. Voting against this motion sends a signal to all dairy farmers in Queensland: 'No matter which company you supply we will support you.' I urge all members to vote down this motion.