




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 5 February 2020

MOTION

Maleny Dairies

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.58 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Glass House and condemn the hypocrisy of those opposite for supporting this motion. The strategy is to attack everything but stand for nothing because while they shriek and shrill about a single dairy farm in South-East Queensland they completely ignore dairy farmers up and down the coast of Queensland—the very people they are claiming to care about.

I am genuinely surprised that those opposite want to keep talking about this issue given the facts of the matter have been laid bare for everyone to see. Maleny Dairies could not fulfil the tender, and even they admitted that. The tender was awarded to Pauls, which last time I checked still employed Queenslanders. Pauls sources its milk from 141 family owned Queensland dairies, and a great number of them are in the electorates of those opposite. Many of these dairies are small businesses and are run by Queensland mums and dads. These dairies collectively employ 700 Queenslanders. Seriously, what have you got against Queensland jobs?

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Ms FENTIMAN: Is this all just for political point-scoring? It looks like an own goal to me. The LNP are determined, because they have launched their petition—via a foreign owned company no less. The member for Nanango has proudly posted this petition on her Facebook page, surely expecting a lot of back patting from dairy farmers around Queensland. Alas, that is not how it went. This is what was posted on the member for Nanango's petition from one of the dairy farmers she clearly does not care about. It states—

As a Queensland Dairyfarmer who supplies PAULS in Deb Frecklingtons own electorate of Nanango I am very disappointed in this action by both Maleny and the LNP. It is saying that the government should give a tender to Maleny over milk supplied to PAULS or Dairyfarmers by hard working Queensland Dairyfarmers, whether Maleny is best tender or not. Gee thanks Deb NOT.

I table for the benefit of the House those Facebook posts.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from Twitter regarding milk suppliers [192].

Pauls were awarded the tender because they have the capacity to fulfil the volume and dietary requirements our hospital patients and staff require. I am proud that this contract means that family owned dairy farmers all across Queensland from the Darling Downs to the Atherton Tableland, farmers from the Sunshine Coast and bushfire affected regions and even farmers in the member for Nanango's electorate, are benefitting from this contract.

We are a government that absolutely backs our small businesses. Our small business procurement commitment goes above and beyond anything the LNP have ever produced. We are measuring our spend with small businesses for the first time in Queensland government history.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the minister is not taking your interjections. A number of people who are the primary interjectors have already had an opportunity to speak. I will allow the other members to speak.

Ms FENTIMAN: I stood with the Deputy Premier at the time of last year's budget and released the first ever small business procurement commitment. We are measuring our spend across government agencies for small businesses for the first time ever, something those opposite never did and still have not committed to doing. We will introduce a small business procurement target, something for which the small business community has been advocating for many years. Let's not forget their record on small business: abolishing the commissioner for small business. Their record on small business is atrocious. Our government is also working on training our procurement officers on how to better engage with small businesses, another thing the small business community has asked for. We are looking at ways to break down big contracts to make it easier for smaller businesses in the regions to apply.

Finally, just because those opposite really are not clued in to their own blind hypocrisy, I point out that the member for Nanango, along with Campbell Newman and the LNP, approved the first Metro North dairy contract to none other than Pauls in 2014. Oh, to have the benefit of hindsight! We are not in this to politicise or sensationalise a contract between Queensland Health and milk suppliers, but those opposite just cannot give it up. What I say to those opposite today, what I say to the LNP, is stop trying to milk this because the cow really has moved on to greener pastures.