




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MOTION

Maleny Dairies

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.05 pm): Some days you just cannot believe your luck. Here I was thinking the LNP would be so embarrassed that their ridiculous stunt blew up in their faces there was no way they would be stupid enough to give me a chance to respond to it here. But just when you think there is no way the LNP could be that stupid, up jumps the member for Glass House. Many of us have, of course, been focused on the biggest health emergency the state has ever faced, one that could decimate whole industries, so some members might have forgotten just how badly the member for Glass House's stunt went for the LNP. Not those opposite though, they are still fixated on who owns the factory where the milk in the nurse's tearoom at the RBWH is processed—not where the cows are, not where the farms are, not even where the jobs are, but who owns it. This is shocking race baiting by the LNP at a time when relations with our Chinese community and export partners are challenged by the coronavirus.

Let us recap on the facts that emerged after the LNP locked and loaded its ridiculous campaign. First of all we discovered the milk contract for metro north was awarded to Pauls in 2014 when the Leader of the Opposition was assistant treasurer and the member for Clayfield was treasurer. The member for Glass House was even called a minister in that government, although Jeff Seeney and Andrew Cripps made sure he was kept well away from any decision-making. Where was their racially motivated objection to Pauls milk back then? Not only that, but the Newman government did not even award the contract for the new Sunshine Coast hospital to Maleny Dairies. It too went to Pauls. Let us also remember that the decision to renew the contract for metro north was made according to an independent tender process overseen by the HHS board under the laws and structure for health services introduced by the LNP. It was the LNP that decentralised decision-making, leaving each HHS to make procurement decisions like this.

It is all pretty embarrassing for those opposite. Then we come to the question of local jobs. Metro north applied the government's policy to support local jobs. The Sunshine Coast HHS specifically asked Maleny Dairies to supply milk for them. I have the email and I will table it for the House.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 13 September 2019, from the Strategic Procurement Manager, Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, Mr Philip John Hoyle, regarding supply of groceries to Sunshine Coast Hospital [\[189\]](#).

Maleny Dairies did not bother to tender to supply milk for their own local health service. The milk Pauls supplies to metro north comes from 141 family owned farms throughout Queensland, farms that would be driven to the brink by the LNP's reckless call. This brings us to the biggest irony of this whole farce: most of the farms are in LNP electorates. The member for Scenic Rim will stand up today and demand 27 farms in his electorate lose out. The member for Condamine will be personally undermining the businesses of 26 family owned dairies in his electorate.

Both the electorates of Southern Downs and Gympie have 16 farms supplying milk under this contract to metro north. The member for Gympie and I do not agree on a lot of things, but I have always

respected how I thought he stood up for his community and for the primary producers in his community. I am shocked that he has chosen to speak on the motion today. Even the member for Nanango is abandoning the 16 farms in her own electorate. It is astounding. The member for Glass House must have some pull in that caucus room to convince all of those local members of parliament to let down their local communities.

Members do not have to take my word for it. The Queensland Dairy Farmers' Organisation wrote to all of us, including those opposite. I table their letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the President, Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation, Mr Brian Tessmann, titled 'An open letter to all Queensland politicians' [\[190\]](#).

The QDO begged the LNP to stop sensationalising this story. Dairy farmers called the LNP campaign for what it was: pointless xenophobia. They said, 'Instead, your influence and focus needs to be on helping our dairy industry move forward in these very difficult times.' If only the LNP would listen to them.

(Time expired)