



Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**


**MEMBER FOR HILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Dairy Industry**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.19 pm): For the last 10 to 12 years in this parliament I have raised concerns in relation to the Queensland dairy industry. Before deregulation in Queensland there were 1,500 dairy farms. Now we are well below 300. We had 270 dairy farms on the Tableland. Now we have less than 50. If this trend continues there will be no dairy farmers in Queensland by the year 2028 and we will be importing milk from interstate or overseas. That is not an exaggeration. It is that bad that we have dairy farmers who are getting loans just to pay their bills.

In 2013 I introduced the Milk Pricing (Fair Milk Mark) Bill and in 2016 I introduced the Sustainable Queensland Dairy Production (Fair Milk Price Logos) Bill. These bills were designed so if a dairy farmer was paid a fair price for a litre of milk that he produced a logo would go on that milk bottle so that when mums and dads walked into the supermarket and saw that logo on the milk bottle they knew that is the milk that is paying the farmer a fair price. Both major parties opposed those bills. What makes me sick is seeing MPs marching with the dairy farmers and saying they are with them but do absolutely nothing.

I will give credit to the minister for agriculture who recognised something had to be done and that my fair milk logo bill was a good idea after all. The minister provided \$1 million to the Queensland Dairy Organisation towards a design advertising and marketing a fair go dairy logo which would appear on the milk bottles. QDO has had two years of expensive legal battles because of disgraceful challenges backed by the processors and the supermarkets. QDO have been forced to scrap the logo due to the exhaustion of funds fighting legal battles, including the latest challenge from the Australian Dairy Products Federation.

What are the processors and supermarkets afraid of? Why are they stopping the release of the fair go logo? They do not want any transparency shown to the mums and dads who want to support our dairy farmers by identifying which milk pays a fair price back to their dairy farmers. I call on the minister for agriculture to meet with the Queensland Dairy Organisation and provide additional funding to get the fair go logo up and going for the benefit of all Queenslanders, otherwise we will have no dairy industry left here in Queensland.