




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Farm Gate Pricing

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.44 am): Queensland produce is the best produce. Our apples and bananas taste better, our mangoes and pineapples are fresher and the world wants our avocados and cherry tomatoes. We have so much to offer and yet our farmers sometimes get ripped off in return. The price Queensland farmers get at the gate pales in comparison to how much it costs families to put those same fruits and vegetables on the dinner table. It means farmers and their businesses are suffering while parents turn to cheaper, pre-packaged and less nutrient-dense foods. In fact, ABS statistics from February show Queensland households' spending on food is up 38 per cent when compared with four years ago, yet the same cannot be said for our farmers' profits. We are paying more and getting less. It is this fact that spurred the current Supermarket Pricing Select Committee to shine a light on these dealings and examine what can be done better.

Today I can announce that we will act immediately on sensible proposals to address price transparency. When I met with the QFF and the Fruit and Vegetable Growers they told me farm gate pricing needed to be more transparent. My government will work with growers to capture, analyse and monitor wholesale and retail pricing across fresh food products and will develop a best practice production cost model for Queensland farmers. This information will help our farmers understand their profitability and risk, arming them in their negotiations with retailers like Coles and Woolworths. We will also hold workshops in each major growing region to upskill farmers to better advocate for themselves in those big business talks. It is about equipping farmers with the information and training to get the best deal for themselves, their families and their farms.

We think this will make a difference for farmers like Trevor. Trevor and his wife, Wendy, have a tomato farm just outside of Bundaberg. I met them, along with the local member for Bundaberg, and they told me the price they were offered by supermarkets was so low they would have made a loss picking them and so instead they left them on the vine. I want to thank Trevor and Wendy for their candour and their hospitality. It is their story, and the many just like it, from all around the state that is helping to expose what is happening to our farmers and our families. I want to thank the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers for their advocacy for farm gate price monitoring. Together with the department of agriculture, this initiative will deliver a practical, meaningful change in the way farmers, growers, retailers and buyers interact and that means a better deal from farm gate to plate.