




Speech By
Glen Kelly

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Buffel Grass

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (9.21 pm): Graziers in Queensland have relied on buffel grass to build their feedstocks and keep woody weeds at bay for generations. That is under threat, with calls for the Australian government to declare buffel grass a weed of national significance. Buffel grass is anything but a weed for Queensland graziers. If anything, it has been a saviour for Queensland's beef industry. It is an incredibly drought-resistant grass because of the bulkiness of its type and, when the rain finally does come, it is generally the first grass to respond and provide rich protein feed for our cattle. In fact, it is so good as feed for stock that it can provide good quality weight gains of up to 1.5 kilograms a day.

When buffel grass is managed correctly, it has the ability to compete with woody weeds like parthenium, which is one of the most aggressive woody weeds that was ever introduced into this great state of Queensland. Buffel grass can contain areas of erosion that are prone to flooding where other types of grasses can get washed away in large floods and, when you have serious fire, a lot of other grasses have trouble responding. If we want farmers to reduce their CO₂ impacts, we want our graziers to have big paddocks of grass available. Buffel grass is one of the grasses that can help to achieve that goal while also providing good quality feed to cattle.

Mr Lister: And great steak.

Mr G KELLY: And great steak! The fact that it has been submitted for consideration as a national weed of significance is a great worry to Queensland graziers. It is certainly not a weed for us. It is a good quality feedstock for our cattle and helps protect the quality of our land. It should not be listed as a weed of national significance not only because of the benefits it provides to farmers in feed but also because of its ability to compete with other noxious weeds that do impact our agricultural industries. While it may be seen as a weed in South Australia and in the Northern Territory, it is of great benefit to the beef producers in Queensland. As the National Farmers Federation's Mr Angus Atkinson has said—

Weeds of national significance status should only be reserved for where there is consensus for listing, national coordination or assistance for eradication. There is no consensus on buffel grass, farmers do not support this.

Queensland produces some of the best beef cattle in the world, and buffel grass helps our beef achieve the meat quality requirements that both the domestic and international markets desire from our world-leading grass-fed beef. If we want to keep being a state that is known for our beef and lamb, we need to make sure that farmers are still able to use buffel grass to feed their cattle and sheep.

(Time expired)