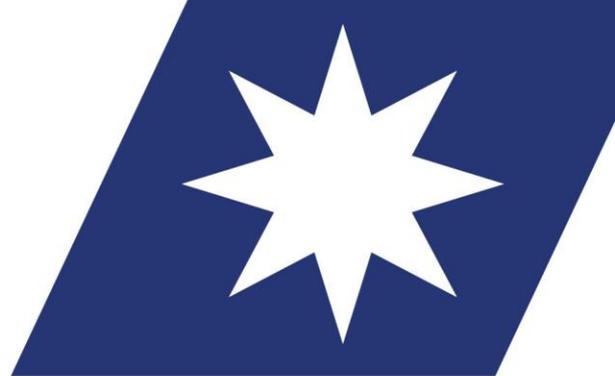


SHANE KNUTH

Member for Hill



MEDIA RELEASE

09 September 2019

Knuth puts 10 cents a litre of milk back on agenda In response to 'Nth Qld farmers only receiving 2 cents a litre'

The push for a full 10 cents a litre of milk is back on the agenda after Member for Hill Shane Knuth MP put a motion in Parliament calling on the house to support that for every 10 cents a litre of milk sold in the supermarkets, 10 cents in FULL goes directly back to the dairy farmer, and any increase after that is evenly distributed between processor, farmer and the supermarkets.

This follows as north Queensland dairy farmers revealed out of the two separate 10 cents a litre price increases – dairy farmers are only getting two cents a litre.

Mr Knuth said a full 10 cents a litre to the farmers was the original intent after the Queensland Dairy Organisation launched a petition signed by 140,000 constituents supporting 10 cents increase to help save the dairy industry.

"There has been a lot of back slapping with the major retailers and federal agricultural minister sending a misleading message that the 10 cents a litre milk increase is going directly to the farmer. This is only on the supermarket branded milk and not all the other brands," Mr Knuth said.

"However, the reality is out of the 10 cent increase, dairy farmers in north Queensland are only receiving two cents. To top it off - further adding insult to injury - the supermarket giants again increased their milk with another 10 cents, and still nothing is going back to the dairy farmer.

"To put it in perspective there has been 20 cents a litre milk increase in the supermarkets –and yet only two cents is going back to north Queensland dairy farmers.

"On the Atherton Tablelands alone, prior to the deregulation there were more than 270 dairy farmers. Now only 53 are left, in the year 2000 there were more than 1,500 dairy farmers in Queensland. Now there are a mere 340.

The Queensland dairy industry is in dire straits. If the current trend continues, this once proud and booming industry will cease to exist in the year 2028," Mr Knuth said.

Out of that desperation, dairy farmers marched down at parliament to express how serious their situation is.

"We've had many complaints from dairy farmers in deep trouble, they're now to the point where they are borrowing money to pay their bills," Mr Knuth said.

Now with the full support for Mr Knuth's motion, all levels of governments must act on policy change and apply pressure on the major supermarkets," Mr Knuth said.

-ENDS-

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