

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report No. 33

Sustainable Queensland Dairy Production (Fair Milk Price Logos) Bill 2016

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

On 13 October 2016, the Sustainable Queensland Dairy Production (Fair Milk Price Logos) Bill 2016 was introduced into Parliament as a Private Member's Bill.

The Bill was referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee (the Committee) for consideration. The Committee was due to report to the Parliament by 13 April 2017.

On 13 April 2017, the Committee tabled its report (No. 33) in relation to the Bill (the report).

The Queensland Government response to the recommendations contained in the report on matters raised by the Committee is provided below.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Sustainable Queensland Dairy Production (Fair Milk Price Logos) Bill 2016 not be passed.

Queensland Government response

The Government notes the recommendation.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries direct his department to investigate options for supporting the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation to devise and operate an industry-operated marketing scheme, potentially including fair milk price logos.

Queensland Government response

The Government accepts this recommendation and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will formally meet with the Queensland Dairyfarmer's Organisation (QDO) to discuss and investigate options for supporting QDO to devise and operate an industry-operated milk marketing scheme, potentially including fair milk price logos.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries consult with his counterparts in other states and territories, and with the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, regarding the institution of similar schemes in order to increase the sustainability of the Australian dairy industry as a whole.

Queensland Government response

The Government does not accept this recommendation as it believes other milk producing jurisdictions in eastern Australia may not be interested in a similar scheme as their dairy production is mainly based on a manufacturing milk market. The manufacturing milk market is directly subject to influences of the world dairy market, which differs from the drinking milk market that is the basis of the Queensland dairy industry. It is also understood that the major processors will not support a scheme that requires milk from different regions to be segregated for processing and labelling as their processing facilities are not designed for this to occur.