




Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR ALBERT**

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**CRIMINAL CODE AND ANOTHER ACT (STOCK) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (7.50 pm): Today I rise to make a reasonably short contribution to the Criminal Code and Another Act (Stock) Amendment Bill. Whilst the Albert electorate is certainly part of the growth corridor of South-East Queensland, we do not have a lot of agricultural land, although we have certain pockets where you can find cattle grazing and small hobby farms. However, my local residents have a very keen interest in discussing the future of food production in this great state of ours.

As we all know, we have had nasty droughts in recent times and they are continuing at the moment. Even though we have had a recent downpour that has helped to some degree, we need a fair bit more follow-up rain. If you live on the land, you face extremes: you have floods, you have droughts, you have floods and you have droughts. That makes it very hard for the primary producers. However, I have to say that this government's commitment to looking after farmers and rural communities is unparalleled. At the last election we gave a firm commitment to build a four-pillar economy and part of that four-pillar economy was the agricultural sector. Therefore, I certainly thank the Attorney-General for this piece of legislation, because it is going to make it a little easier for individuals. As committee chair, the member for Lockyer does a fantastic job pushing through these pieces of legislation, listening to what the working groups have to say and assimilating the information. Certainly, it is great.

I am speaking on this bill and I am quite passionate about this subject because, in my younger days, I used to spend my weekends at Beechmont on my father's hobby farm. The next-door neighbours, the Marshalls, used to run Friesian cattle. The property was about 600 to 1,000 acres of prime agricultural land. It is red-soil country. The best agricultural—

**Mr Rickuss:** Kikuyu grass.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Kikuyu grass—

**Mr Berry:** It must be very cold up there with Friesian cattle.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** It can be a bit chilly in winter. It is the ultimate farming land. There are still some milk producers around Flying Fox Creek in the great electorate of Beaudesert. They are still running some Jersey cows out there. I remember when I was a young fellow riding through the avocado paddock on my good old 100cc motorbike and there was a massive 600-kilogram Friesian cow in front of us. We had to slam on the brakes. I can tell members one thing about cattle: if they can find a hole in a fence, they will find it. They are professional escape artists.

**Mr Dowling:** How many burgers could you get out of that?

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** They are dairy cattle; you do not eat dairy cattle. To educate the member for Redlands, on average a Friesian cow can produce about 10,000 litres of milk per year. To give members an idea of what that means, that is 14 two-litre cartons of milk every day. That shows how valuable those cattle are.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** It is absolutely delicious milk.

**An honourable member:** Full cream?

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Yes, it is full cream and Jersey cattle give creamier milk.

**An honourable member:** Skinny milk?

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Unfortunately, that is processed. The examination of the bill involved extensive work by groups actively involved in the area, such as AgForce Queensland; the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Biosecurity Queensland; the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; the Queensland Law Society; the Director of Public Prosecutions; and the Queensland Police Service's Stock and Rural Crime Investigation Squad. During the Brisbane floods, I helped with the SES search phase in the Lockyer Valley. I spoke to an officer from the Stock and Rural Crime Investigation Squad. I was quite interested to hear him talking about his work and how his investigation processes are undertaken. From what he told me, it appeared that those processes were extremely bureaucratic. One of the key changes in this legislation cuts that away and makes it a lot easier for police to sort out issues far quicker and more efficiently.

**A government member:** You need to put a stake in the ground somewhere.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Yes, a stake in the ground. One of the key points of the legislation relates to what I was talking about before, that is, when cows break through a fence and get into other people's properties. The legislation will sanction a forced muster. An individual may say, 'Look, you can't come onto my property and take back your cattle. Even though they may belong to you, you still need my permission.' Under this legislation, a farmer will be able to get a police officer to accompany him to retrieve his cattle and take them back to his property. That will save an enormous amount of heartache and a massive cost for the farmers.

Tonight I will keep my contribution very brief. I thank the Attorney-General. Certainly, this is a fantastic piece of legislation. Most importantly, it is going to be widely welcomed by farmers. It is a great piece of legislation.