1. The Milk Pricing (Fair Milk Mark) Bill 2013 (the Bill) was introduced by Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple, on 2 May 2013. The Bill proposed the establishment of a ‘fair milk mark’ that can only be placed on milk that has been purchased from dairy producers at a ‘fair milk price’.
2. The Bill proposed that the responsible Minister would set the fair milk price, which would be at least eight cents per litre above the cost of production of a typical dairy farmer in Queensland. Involvement in the scheme would be voluntary but appropriate use of fair milk mark would be monitored and enforced by the State Government.
3. On 4 November 2013, the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee tabled its report on the Bill (Report No. 30). The Committee recommended that the Bill not be passed as there is no legislative requirement to establish a fair milk mark. The Committee also recommended that:
* The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) continue to liaise with the Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation (QDO) to formulate a strategy for Queensland participation in the Asian dairy market;
* the QDO and local dairy industry leverage off local and state ‘buy local’ campaigns;
* the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry liaise with Federal Government to explore ways to bring more equity and balance into the milk market; and
* DAFF continue to provide assistance with business pathways and technical advice to dairy farmers wishing to establish small processing operations in Queensland.
1. Cabinet noted the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee’s recommendations outlined in its Report No. 30.
2. Cabinet approved opposing the Milk Pricing (Fair Milk Mark) Bill 2013.
3. *Attachments*
* [Milk Pricing (Fair Milk Mark) Bill 2013](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee’s Report No. 30](Attachments/Report.pdf)