



Hon Steven Miles MP  
Minister for Health and  
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- 5 MAR 2020

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3268-20, tabled in Parliament on 4 February 2020, in relation to the independent tender process to supply dairy products to hospitals in the northern suburbs of Brisbane.

I can assure petitioners that the Palaszczuk Government absolutely supports Queensland producers. Our Buy Queensland policy has invested \$17 billion into over 32,500 Queensland businesses since its introduction in September 2017.

I understand Maleny Dairies is disappointed they were unsuccessful in the independent tender process. However, the successful supplier, Pauls, which is based in South Brisbane, is the largest buyer of milk from Queensland farms. They purchase over 150 million litres of milk from 141 Queensland dairy farmers each year.

All of Pauls' Queensland farms are family owned and operated. This means 141 local dairy farms in Queensland are supported by this contract including Southeast Queensland, Darling Downs, Wide Bay, Central Queensland and in Far North Queensland near the Atherton Tableland. Of the tenderers, Pauls sources the most dairy from Queensland farms, more than any other applicant. Pauls also employ 700 people across Queensland.

Pauls was the only tenderer able to supply the full range of full and low-fat products required including milk and soft dairy products to meet the dietary standards and varied requirements of our patients. No milk will be imported from overseas. In the rare instance where not enough milk can be sourced from Queensland, additional milk will be sourced from interstate, not overseas. Pauls has been supplying this contract to the Metro North Hospital and Health Service since 2014 when the then Newman LNP Government oversaw the tender process.

Yours sincerely

**STEVEN MILES MP**

**Minister for Health**

**Minister for Ambulance Services**