

Friday 10th February, 2012

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Party provide light for farmers

State Leader Aidan McLindon has reaffirmed policy that within 12 months of an Australian Party Government, they would implement a State Arbitration Body to oversee negotiations between dairy farmers and processors.

"Agriculture in Australia is on its knees at the moment and nowhere is this more evident than in the dairy industry. Since the National Party pulled the trigger on de-regulation, there has been a drastic downward spiral for this industry.

"Now, we have a policy that will inject some life back into dairying and into agriculture in general," Mr McLindon said.

The policy was announced yesterday by Australia Party Member for Dalrymple who said;

"We need action now. We can't sit back and expect that the markets will sort this mess out while our dairy farmers are exiting the industry at a rapid pace.

"It's not just producers and small businesses that suffer but massive flow on effects have been devastating to communities across the Tablelands.

"It is basic economics - you have to receive more for your product than what it costs to produce it or you will go broke - farmers need greater bargaining power to negotiate farm-gate prices because deregulation has clearly failed.

"Our long term goal is to restore farmer's rights to a fair price and reduce the market share of Woolworths and Coles, who are undermining our small business and ruining farmer's viability," Mr Knuth said.

According to Mr McLindon, this announcement was just part of the Australian Party's plan to restore our once proud agricultural sector.

"Rural and regional industries have been slowly losing their voice in government and this has coincided with a decline in these industries. With The Australian Party though, they now have someone who will fight for their survival and this is just the first step."

