



## House of Assembly

Extract from Hansard

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
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### Farming Rights

Mr PICCOLO (Light) (11:48): Madam Speaker, I wish to move an amendment to this motion. I move:

After 'report' remove all words and replace with:

'on land arrangements for primary production (agriculture, viticulture and horticulture), mineral resources and regional development, focusing on planning for farming sustainability and improving farming practices that promote the sustainable use of our state's natural resources, a clean, green food supply for South Australia and report on advantages that this promotion may bring to the South Australian economy.'

My amendment seeks to maintain the establishment of a select committee. What the motion does do is try to –

The SPEAKER: Member for Light, could we just have a copy of the amendment?

Mr PICCOLO: You can. The intent of the amendment is to support the establishment of the select committee and also to support the intent of what the motion seeks to do. We are making it a bit broader, and we are taking out the words that narrow the debate. We are looking at farming in the broader sense and trying to establish what it is we need to do to make farming sustainable and profitable in the future.

As I said, the intent of the government's amendment is to ensure that the community recognises that the government is very interested in this section of our economy. The South Australian government has recognised it in the seven strategic priorities, in our role as a supplier of clean, green food and in relation to the importance of mining in our present and future.

South Australian primary produce makes up 5 per cent of our gross state product, while mining represents 4 per cent of our gross state product. South Australia's gross food revenue reached a record high of \$13.7 billion in 2010-11. The food and wine industry employs nearly one in five South Australian workers and accounts for around 40 per cent of the state's exports, so it is a very important sector and that is why we are supporting this motion in an amended form.

I also wish to comment on something the member for Chaffey touched upon earlier, that is that land use and methods of primary production do not remain static over time; therefore, to ensure that we can build on our substantial base in primary industries and improve our productivity, various

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land uses must coexist, and we must find solutions to those existing conflicts.

We have all become more aware of the importance of sustainability in our land use, and many primary producers are exemplars of how to husband and nurture land. There is an increasing interest here and overseas in 'green' food and produce that can be sustainably produced with the least impact on the environment and consumed with confidence. Consumers may seek out and pay a premium for products with a clean, green image.

An important point is that proper planning and a proactive policy can minimise conflicts between different types of farming. Preventative policy measures are more useful than remedial ones. There are existing and ongoing processes to ensure these conflicts are minimised, including the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, which includes the protection of agricultural land in the Greater Adelaide region and the introduction of character preservation regions in the Barossa and McLaren Vale.

A select committee should therefore investigate how preventative policy measures assist in dealing with the range of uses for land in regional areas to support farm sustainability and to help provide a market advantage to South Australian primary industries. With those few comments, I seek support for this amendment.

The SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded?