**KNUTH CALLS ON MSF TO LOOK AFTER LOCAL CLIENTS**

Member for Hill Shane Knuth is calling on MSF sugar to offer reasonable terms to local buyers of molasses.

After extensive discussions and negotiations with MSF over the past few weeks Mr Knuth said talks were at a standstill with MSF failing to reduce the price of $250 per tonne to local clients.

"When I first heard of the issue, I wrote a letter and picked up the phone to MSF to negotiate a reasonable solution to this," said Mr Knuth.

"MSF softened their initial stance at not providing access to purchase molasses by locals after initial talks, however then imposed terms of sale that put buying molasses out of reach of local clients.

"I then had further discussions and was successful in working with MSF to get rid of deposit payment and onsite storage terms, however, the price per tonne remains a sticking point."

Mr Knuth added that other state and federal representatives boasted prematurely in the media on the issue, but questions whether any had even picked up the phone to MSF to try and negotiate a solution.

"I have been channelling my energy into exhausting every possible way to get a fair deal for locals by negotiating with MSF," he said.

"Unfortunately, it has reached a stage where the public needs to be informed and pressure needs to be applied to MSF not to abandon their local clients.

"This is another blow to primary producers, particularly the dairy industry who are already under siege from being paid a poor farm gate price for milk and the disgraceful lack of state and federal government support.

"MSF pointed out that they need to maximise their returns while molasses prices are at a worldwide all-time high.

"My question to MSF is, what happens in the future, after abandoning local clients now, if the price of molasses drops and MSF needs local clients for support?"

**-ENDS-**

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