




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Ekka

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.15 am): As we all know, and particularly those on this side of the House, it is the beginning of the great Ekka week. What an exciting time it is for everyone in rural and regional Queensland. It is a time of the year when the city meets the country—that is what we hope happens out there—and we celebrate the important role and everything that country people do to feed and clothe us and the rest of the world.

In advance of this very successful week, I would like to congratulate Justice David Thomas and his RNA committee for what I know will be a fabulous week. Ekka week kicked off with the annual Rural Press Club breakfast. It was wonderful that so many LNP members were at that breakfast. We heard about leadership from David Foote from the ACC. It was very enlightening.

I am sure the Labor front bench will dust off their RM Williams boots, take the plastic off their hats and stroll around the Ekka and gladhand our Queensland farmers and cattlemen and pretend that they actually know what they are talking about. They have more front than Myer when it comes to their representation of rural and regional Queensland.

Labor has proved time and time again that they do not get regional Queensland. They simply do not understand it. They are more interested in shoring up the inner-city green votes in the suburbs than in looking after those people who feed and clothe us. There is no greater example than the fact that those opposite—the inner-city green-led Palaszczuk government—is planning to scrap the common-sense native vegetation laws.

We all remember this time last year when shadow minister Andrew Cripps led the charge with AgForce on the street out here to get across to people that those opposite were going to prance around the Ekka and then try to overturn the common-sense native vegetation laws. I challenge anyone at the Ekka when they see any of those opposite walking around to ask them what they are going to do with the native vegetation laws and what they are going to do in terms of sugar marketing. Those opposite, led by the Deputy Premier and, disgracefully, the agricultural minister, will try to overturn the fair marketing laws that protect farmers against the big guys. Only the LNP support regional Queensland.