



Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**


**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Condamine Electorate, Agriculture Industry

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.43 pm): I rise to speak about the importance of the agriculture industry in the electorate of Condamine. This part of Queensland is one of the most fertile and productive agricultural areas not only in Australia but would hold its own when compared with any agricultural area in the world. From the Clifton and Felton area in the south, through the central downs and into the Jimbour Plain on the outskirts of Dalby in the north, this is truly magnificent country, growing cereal grains, pulses and legumes, and cotton.

Condamine is also home to the largest concentration of intensively fed livestock in this country. Pork produced on a large scale in the Clifton and Pittsworth district is renowned far and wide. It would be a little known fact that McLean Farms at Pittsworth and Halls from Millmerran are the largest egg producers in the Southern Hemisphere. Condamine is also home to a number of the state's largest cattle feedlots such as Grassdale, Beef City and Kerwee, to name just a few. The towns of Clifton, Pittsworth, Oakey, Dalby and Crows Nest all rely on agriculture for their existence.

Having spent my life working on the land in crop and cattle production, I know only too well the challenges that a life on the land brings, but the primary producers and associated industries not only in Condamine but across Queensland have another challenge foisted upon them by this Labor government. I speak of the absence of a standalone agriculture minister. It is almost three weeks since the member for Rockhampton stood down for health reasons from the position of minister for agriculture. We currently have the agriculture portfolio resting with Minister Lynham, who is now the Minister for—wait for it—State Development, Natural Resources and Mines and Acting Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Economic Development. What an embarrassment and insult to our agricultural sector!

We have heard the Premier stand in this place and speak in glowing terms of the returns to this state from the agriculture sector, yet she cannot find the time or perhaps anyone from the Labor benches with the ability to fill this vitally important role. The acting minister demonstrated his lack of understanding of the role in question time yesterday when he said that it was the first time a question had been asked about agriculture. I have heard the member for Burdekin ask many questions regarding agriculture, and questions about electricity, water and transport are all vital issues for agriculture. Premier, we do not know how much longer you will dither and procrastinate about an election date, so get on and appoint an agriculture minister as a matter of urgency.