



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Growing Queensland's Food Exports Program**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland jobs by helping export-ready food businesses conquer international markets with grants awarded under a new \$1.3 million program. In the first round of funding, six food companies are being supported through the Growing Queensland's Food Exports Program. The producers selected for grants are either already exporting or ready to export and seeking access to overseas markets.

The successful projects for round 1 of the Growing Queensland's Food Exports Program include the following. Bundaberg's Macadamias Australia is developing exports for retail-ready macadamia products. Manbulloo is wanting to capitalise on new opportunities to expand its mango exports from North Queensland to Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Singapore. The Lockyer's Mulgowie Fresh is looking to capitalise on packaged sweet corn consumer traceability. A&E Coco and Sons, based at Elimbah near Caboolture, hopes to capitalise on market access to export Queensland strawberries to Hong Kong and Indonesia.

They have also been collaborating with other Sunshine Coast strawberry businesses such as Ashbern Farms and Berry Patch as well as the Queensland Strawberry Growers Association. SunPork Fresh Foods is developing pork products at its Kingaroy and Murarrie plants for the high-end Asian market. Burdekin's vf+ is developing exports of high-quality melons out of North Queensland to Japan and Singapore. On the subject of melons, I thank the Premier and my ministerial colleagues for getting behind the industry in times of need.

By providing funding of up to \$100,000, we are assisting these food companies to build their business capability and grow exports. These companies are targeting the export priorities of their sector which will benefit the entire industry through increased knowledge of target export market destinations. An improved understanding of competitors, product specifications, supply chain handling and export business practices will also help the local industry. The Growing Queensland's Food Exports Program focuses primarily on horticulture as Queensland is Australia's largest producer of vegetables and the second largest producer of fruit and nuts. Matched funding of up to \$100,000 is available over two years for eligible projects. There will be a second funding round in July this year.

This is a clear demonstration of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to increasing our state's exports to 22 per cent of the national total, while at the same time delivering more jobs and strong economic growth in regional areas. I encourage export-ready food producers who would like to know more about the program to contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.