



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2018

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Rural Economic Development Grants**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.07 am): During the estimates committee hearing I pledged that agricultural businesses would be able to apply for Rural Economic Development grants by August. Once again, the Palaszczuk government is delivering for our regions. The \$10 million RED grants scheme is funded over three years and will create local jobs and be a real boost for rural and regional agricultural businesses that are part of our supply chain.

The RED grants are now open for expressions of interest from applicants. The scheme will provide grants of up to \$250,000 to be matched by the applicant for shovel-ready projects that will create regional employment. The scheme is open to applicants including businesses of fewer than 200 employees, primary producers, higher education institutions, local governments, agricultural industry organisations and other entities with investment ideas that will support the economic development of rural and regional Queensland.

Round 1 opened on 24 August 2018 and expressions of interest close on 26 October 2018. Additional rounds will be announced over a three-year period ending 30 June 2021. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit an expression of interest outlining the development plan to the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority. QRIDA is administering the RED grants scheme and will review those expressions of interest and then invite successful applicants to submit a formal application against key criteria as part of a competitive process. The types of activities that can be funded under the scheme include investment in new technologies and innovations that enhance productivity, investments that value-add to agriculture or develop new markets, or assist business development or expansion, provided that such investment will create employment. The RED grants program is a further demonstration of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to creating jobs in a strong economy and increasing private sector investment in rural and regional Queensland.