



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 March 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Growing Queensland's Food Exports**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.08 am): I am incredibly proud that the Palaszczuk government is a keen supporter of our Queensland farmers. An example of that was just yesterday when the Premier and I engaged with our friends from the Queensland Farmers' Federation. Queensland produces some of the best produce—something we are celebrating across the state with our recent launch of the #eatqld campaign.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Southern Downs, I do not wish to hear much from you today.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members to my right!

**Mr FURNER:** That is why I am very proud today to announce \$660,000 in funding under the second round of our Growing Queensland's Food Exports grants. With the first round we supported exporters of macadamias, mangoes, melons, strawberries, sweet corn and pork with matched grants of up to \$100,000. This funding is designed to help businesses, either exporters or ready to export, improve their export competitiveness through better understanding of their markets. In this second round of funding we are supporting exporters of vegetables from Gatton, ginger from Buderim, mandarins from Mundubbera, banana flour from the Atherton Tablelands, dried tropical fruits from Gin Gin, wines from the Granite Belt, and mud crabs and fish from the Gulf Country. We are investing in market access and innovation so Queensland farmers can take on the world.

While the Palaszczuk government is clearly the farmers' friend, the same cannot be said about the coalition government in Canberra. Our state is on the front line of biosecurity in this country, yet this LNP federal government recklessly cut biosecurity staff by more than 20 per cent. Biosecurity is crucial to the success of our agricultural sector and vital to make sure our exporters can maintain Queensland's clean, green reputation for producing some of the world's best produce. In next week's federal budget Queensland needs to get its fair share of biosecurity funding to make sure Queensland farmers do not face the threat of imported pests.