




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Agriculture and Food Industry, Trade Mission

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.08 am): I am pleased to announce that next week I will lead a delegation of 18 businesses from Queensland's agricultural and food sector on a trade mission to Hong Kong and Chongqing. This trade mission has one objective and one objective only, and that is to grow Queensland jobs by expanding export market opportunities for these businesses. The Palaszczuk government has a proud record of creating more than 192,000 jobs, and we are nowhere near done yet. Labor governments create jobs, we back workers, we back businesses to innovate and grow and we forge those relationships in global markets to increase the opportunities for success.

A key event on the Hong Kong leg of this trade mission will be Hofex, Asia's leading food and hospitality trade show. There we will visit the Taste of Queensland stand, as well as holding key meetings with government and commercial sector officials. In Chongqing we will undertake visits to several sites connected with the food export and import industries, as well as hold meetings with trading groups key to accessing these markets. We will also attend the official opening of the Australia China-Australia Economic and Trade Forum. This is a massive opportunity for Queensland food and beverage businesses taking part.

At Hofex we will have Aussie Game Meats from Ipswich, Ballistic Beer Co from Brisbane, Gotzinger Smallgoods from Yatala, Proteco Oils from Kingaroy, Human Bean Co from Goondiwindi and Brisbane Valley Protein from Scenic Rim, just to name a few. In Chongqing we will have representatives promoting Queensland prawns, ice-cream, macadamias, ginger, brewed drinks and more. In the 12 months to November, Queensland's total goods exports rose to more than \$80 billion. This included \$5.3 billion in beef exports alone. Significant investments and strategic trade missions by the Palaszczuk government have directly contributed to Queensland's growing export story and I expect this trade mission to be no different. Trade means jobs and we are working hard to grow and strengthen our trade relationships. I thank the Premier for the opportunity to lead this trade mission to Hong Kong and Chongqing and the opportunity to contribute to the success of these Queensland food businesses and to further growth in jobs for Queenslanders.