



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Rural Economic Development Grants**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.11 am): Today I rise to announce the latest round of the Palaszczuk government's Rural Economic Development Grants. This grant scheme will contribute \$3.2 million to fund the expansion and advancement of 15 rural businesses throughout the state. Additional support to grow these rural businesses will create up to 600 jobs as they expand and increase their capacity.

The Palaszczuk government supports jobs growth in every part of Queensland, including rural and regional Queensland. These grants will support jobs in the Maranoa, Lockyer Valley, Central Highlands, Toowoomba, Bundaberg, the Sunshine Coast, Mareeba, Balonne, North Burnett, the Western Downs and the Southern Downs. These grants of up to \$250,000 will enable these businesses to build new infrastructure, create jobs and build the success of our regions.

We have seen some very impressive projects in the applications for these grants which will create ongoing economic and social benefits for their communities. Midwest Fabrication in the Western Downs will use its grant to improve and build infrastructure so it can expand its manufacturing capacity, creating 24 direct and indirect jobs. JV & MH Brodie in the Balonne Shire will construct a 10,000-head lamb feedlot and a spelling yard, creating 13 direct and indirect jobs. Their grant will contribute to the first three stages with a capacity of 6,000 head.

I look forward to announcing other successful candidates from this grant program over the coming weeks. The Palaszczuk government has always been and will remain the best friend of rural and regional Queensland. We have always backed our farmers, we have always backed regional Queensland and we always will.