




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

African Swine Fever

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (9.51 am): African swine fever is a serious disease impacting pork production worldwide. Although there are no human health risks, pigs themselves are vulnerable with no vaccine and no cure. The outbreak has seen 25 per cent of pig numbers worldwide wiped out. Australia is free of African swine fever and, with good biosecurity at the border, it is hoped that Australia will continue to escape this disease.

The greatest risk of introduction is from people illegally bringing pork or pork products into Australia from overseas and these being fed to or eaten by pigs. The announcement yesterday that the proportion of pork seized at Australian airports, including at Brisbane Airport, contaminated with African swine fever fragments has increased from 15 per cent in February this year to 48 per cent in September is additional cause for concern. I welcome the Commonwealth government putting a detector dog at Darwin, as ports and airports are the front line of defence against this disease.

Today I have arranged an African swine fever awareness and action forum to be held with representatives of the Queensland pork industry to identify key action areas to ensure Queensland is well positioned to prevent and respond to this threat and to ensure a continued coordinated effort from government and industry. If African swine fever or any other exotic disease makes it across the border, Biosecurity Queensland will actively work with industry, other states and the Commonwealth on the response.

The best way to protect our industry is to ensure African swine fever does not make it through the border. I encourage all Queenslanders to make sure they are not bringing anything back, or ordering from overseas, any product that could constitute a risk. Never feed swill to pigs. Not only is it unlawful; but the biosecurity risks place multiple industries in danger. Pig owners must be registered as a biosecurity entity, and I recommend that they check the DAF website to ensure their registration details are up to date.

Queenslanders, our pork is safe to eat, and by putting pork on your fork we are supporting jobs and our farming sector. Make sure for your next shopping trip Queensland pork is on your shopping list.