




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 27 November 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Drought, Freight and Fodder Subsidies

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (2.00 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. Earlier today in question time, the member for Gympie asked a question of the Premier about drought support funding. It is unfortunate that those opposite are trying to make drought assistance a political issue. Earlier this year a report on drought support was authorised and authored by two well-respected industry identities, Ms Ruth Wade and Mr Charles Burke. The report was released in its entirety. The report was subject to extensive engagement with industry, including AgForce and the Queensland Farmers' Federation. Furthermore, as has been repeatedly stated, there will be no change to support for producers receiving drought support for the duration of the current drought.

There seems to be a little bit of confusion or scurrilous scaremongering by those opposite on this report. I will be 100 per cent clear: the Palaszczuk government has cut not one cent from drought support. I will say it again in case those opposite missed it: not one cent has been cut and not one cent will be cut from the drought support for our farmers during this drought. Since the drought began, the Queensland government has committed more than \$740 million to support farmers and drought-affected communities. In the state budget this year, we committed more than \$74 million in additional funding for drought support. It was made very clear at the beginning, and I quote the terms of the reference—

The Palaszczuk Government committed to work with industry to consider future drought models in Queensland and has engaged an independent panel who have been tasked to looking at what can be done during, and prepare for future droughts through a Drought Program Review.

Statements by the LNP members on this matter show that they are either being deliberately mischievous or generally ignorant of the process. I welcome the opportunity to highlight the support the Palaszczuk government has given in this drought to our primary producers. I encourage those opposite to seek the facts on this matter. I am quite prepared to provide a briefing if they need it.