



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2020

**MOTION**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Coronavirus Response**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (12.05 pm): I rise to support the motion. Later on this week I will hopefully be travelling to Tasmania for the AGMIN meeting. For the benefit of the House, AGMIN is about discussing various matters associated with biosecurity and other effects of drought, not only by all the ministers and departments of the Commonwealth and the states and territories, but also those of New Zealand. To facilitate that, I hope the member for Kawana will grant me a pair so I am able to represent Queensland on matters such as this urgent motion that has been put before the House today.

It is critical that a representative of Queensland be in attendance at the AGMIN meeting. It certainly will allow us to brief other states, territories, and the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, David Littleproud, to give them an understanding of the support that is required for jobs and small businesses that are affected by this virus. It is quite common and quite relative when you look at other matters that the Commonwealth and other states support in terms of—

**Mr HART:** I rise to a point of order on relevance, Mr Deputy Speaker. You have already pulled up other members about speaking to the motion. The member is not speaking to the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Burleigh. I have been listening quite intently to all debate today. I believe the member on his feet is addressing the motion.

**Mr FURNER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I certainly will not be going to the Rockies to discuss matters that are not associated with this important motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now you need to come back to the motion, member for Ferry Grove.

**Mr FURNER:** I will come back to the motion. The adjunct of what is required to assist the industry is supporting the rock lobster industry and the coral trout industry in terms of explaining how we will be able to assist in the relaxation of fees, quotas and so on. The local seafood promotion campaign will encourage Queenslanders to support our local fishers by buying local. That will be supported by a range of other stakeholders, whether it be Clubs Queensland or other stakeholders who have signed up to #eatqueensland, encouraging people to eat locally. The federal government supporting the Queensland government's action is crucial. It cannot be a Holden moment for the Prime Minister in this case. The Prime Minister must act. Action is required to ensure that our agriculture and fisheries industries are protected.

I note the media comments by Eric Perez from the Queensland Seafood Industry Association. He is calling on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to help. He said—

Newstart or Farm Household Allowance style payments for commercial fishers, skippers and crew, or low-to-no interest loans for commercial operations to adapt vessels to catch a broader array of seafood, have all been raised potential avenues for assistance.

When I met with Eric last sitting week, his first comment was around the need for assistance through Newstart. Not only is this government acting, but also industry is calling on the Commonwealth to give support. No doubt this is the opportunity for the Commonwealth to step up to support the tourism industry and to back in Queensland jobs and Queensland small businesses that rely upon this industry for support for those jobs. I was up there only last week with the member for Cook representing Queenslanders—

*(Time expired)*