




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Aquaculture Industry, Jobs

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.00 am): It is my absolute privilege to update members on the fantastic jobs growth we are seeing as a result of the Palaszczuk government's support of the aquaculture industry. The latest figures show that aquaculture is now a significant multimillion dollar industry that is providing jobs for more than 600 Queenslanders.

In just the last financial year we have seen the number of Queensland aquaculture jobs grow by 18.7 per cent. That is an increase of 98 jobs just in this one fast-growing sector of Queensland's economy. The annual aquaculture production summary confirms that we are on track with our goal to grow Queensland's aquaculture industry which will create even more jobs in the regions. I table that report.

Tabled paper: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries report, titled 'Ross Lobbegeiger report to farmers, Aquaculture production summary for Queensland 2018-19' [\[281\]](#).

A strong aquaculture sector partnered with a strong commercial fishing sector will mean more fresh and tasty Queensland seafood on plates around Australia and around the world.

In the Cairns region there is now the equivalent of 224 full-time jobs in aquaculture—up 11.1 per cent on last year. In the Fitzroy region jobs are up 154 per cent; in Brisbane, 113 per cent; in Mackay, 4.3 per cent; in the Wide Bay-Burnett, 32.9 per cent; and in Townsville, 7.1 per cent.

Our Gold Coast and Logan River prawn industries are getting back in production. Last financial year prawn production increased 18.1 per cent. Overall, the total value of Queensland aquaculture increased by 3.7 per cent. We know that there is significant further investment and jobs growth still to come. The continued recovery of the prawn sector, the release of six aquaculture development areas and investment in aquaculture farms by companies such as salmon producer Tassal mean a very bright future for the industry in Queensland.

When I became the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries one of my goals was to see Queensland become the aquaculture capital of the world. Since this time we have been successful in attracting southern states' businesses to invest in the industry in Queensland, with projects that will mean hundreds of additional jobs in the aquaculture sector.

I am looking forward to visiting some of these key projects over the coming weeks such as those by Tassal and Ornatas. This industry is farming great Queensland seafood that will become known the world over, and it is also growing hundreds of jobs for Queenslanders.