



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2020

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Ekka Strawberry Sundaes**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.12 am): When Queenslanders think of the Ekka, they think of that iconic strawberry sundae. It is one of the first things that comes to mind. There is nothing quite like it—special edition strawberry and vanilla ice creams, fresh Queensland strawberries and a bit of cream on top of course. Members are licking their lips in anticipation now. We will not have the traditional Ekka this year, but I am 'berry' excited to announce that Queenslanders will be able to continue a 33-year tradition and enjoy a strawberry sundae thanks to the Palaszczuk government.

Our \$75,000 donation will allow the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation's The Common Good initiative to go on the road. Here is the scoop—there will be five pop-up strawberry sundae stalls around Brisbane during the scheduled 10 days of the Ekka from 7 August to 16 August. You will also be able to enjoy a strawberry sundae at home or in your workplace, with take-home packs of 20 or larger packs of 100 for sale online. Already more than 400 packs, or 11,500 sundaes worth, have been ordered. Every strawberry sundae raises much needed money for medical research. This year, the money raised from the sale of these sundaes will be used to help in the battle against COVID-19. The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation is hoping to sell 60,000 sundaes this Ekka season. So kids, ask mum and dad to get more than one strawberry sundae next month because you will be contributing to life-saving research.

I had the pleasure of visiting the Lick Ice Cream factory last week and I can tell the House that they are busy preparing the six tonnes of ice cream. This is a boost for our farmers as well.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr FURNER:** I love the cries of adulation from members opposite when I mention farmers, because I am known as 'Furner, the farmer's friend'. This year's sundaes will use four tonnes of Queensland cream, 31,000 eggs and a load of delicious Queensland strawberries. Buying an Ekka sundae this year will not only help our farmers; it will also help our economy as we unite and recover and implement our plan for economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19.

In 2018 we assisted the strawberry industry through difficult times with a \$1 million package. Now we can all support The Common Good initiative. I understand the strawberry industry is today announcing a donation of 20,000 punnets to The Common Good to use in this year's sundaes. I commend the foundation, I commend the strawberry industry and I commend the Queensland farmers for coming together for the common good.