



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2021

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Beef Industry; Beef 2021**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (9.57 am): I know that Queenslanders are getting really excited about the possibility of an Olympic Games in 2032, but, equally, I am excited about what will happen in Rockhampton in two weeks: Beef Australia 2021, the Olympics of the cattle industry.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr FURNER:** No doubt some of those opposite are excited as well, from the cries of adulation! Beef processing is Queensland's economic powerhouse. It provides 10,000 direct jobs to Queensland. It supports a further 8,000 jobs to that sector. Last financial year, Queensland exported more than 632,000 tonnes of beef and veal—over half of Australia's total beef exports. Beef exports will be a key driver of Queensland's economic recovery from COVID. That is why I hosted a virtual trade mission to Japan in September last year. Beef is one of the subjects I will discuss today with the Indonesian ambassador.

Queensland's pride in the cattle industry was on display last week at the Toowoomba Royal Show. I had the pleasure of visiting the prize-winning cattle in the show ring. I acknowledge the announcer, Angus Lane OAM, who officiated his last show on that weekend. Angus asked me to pass on his appreciation to the Premier and our government for the manner in which we have handled this pandemic. He is a lovely gentleman.

With Queensland cattle production this year expected to be worth \$4.85 billion, it is little wonder that the beef industry is such a key part of our regional plan for economic recovery. More than 100,000 people attended Beef 2018 in Rockhampton, including 1,200 international delegates who delivered a substantial economic benefit to that region. The COVID edition this year will be different, but it will still showcase the best of what the Queensland cattle industry has to offer.

The Palaszczuk government is proud to be backing Beef 2021 all the way. We have committed \$1 million to support this year's edition. This year there will be an increased focus on agtech and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will host an agtech and innovation hub. It will showcase existing and world-first emerging technologies that impact the beef industry supply chain from conception through to consumption. Honourable members had a taste of Beef 2021 in the last sitting week, including a sneak preview of Are You Lonesome Tonight, a collaboration between the organisers and Opera Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is 100 per cent behind Beef Week and no doubt that is why I have been titled the 'minister for beef'. I cannot wait to travel to Rockhampton along with my cabinet colleagues—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** I'll be there!

**Mr FURNER:**—as well as other members. That is right, Premier; I take that interjection: you will be there in full force. There will also be other MPs and also the members for Rockhampton and Keppel will be there in force. I say to all members: do not make a 'mis-steak'; make sure you grab a steak at Beef Australia 2021.