



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2021

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Beef 2021

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.08 am): I know everyone is excited to be in parliament this week, but the real excitement last week was in Rockhampton for Beef Australia 2021. Beef Australia 2021 is the premier event when it comes to beef in this country. I can confidently say that Beef Australia holds the best event in the world when it comes to beef, a celebration of the best beef on offer. Chairman Bryce Camm and the entire Beef Australia board should be credited and acknowledged for their sterling work in showcasing this event. This was Bryce's first Beef Australia event as chair and he had big boots to fill. He certainly filled them and he held a magnificent event. That is why he is a well-deserved recipient of the 20th #eatqld Champion award.

It was clear to the thousands who came through the gates that this was a special event. In fact, I believe it was a record event. There were not just quality cattle and pavilions of key suppliers and stakeholders to the sector but also an entertainment program like nothing the cattle industry had ever seen before. *Are You Lonesome Tonight*—an effort of Opera Queensland at opening night of Beef 2021 before touring our great state—was a performance that moved the crowd like no other.

We as a government have supported and always will support beef. I know that the members for Keppel, Rockhampton, Pumicestone and Bancroft enjoyed the experience, as did the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and all the other ministerial colleagues who took time out to attend the event. It was a premier beef event, with the Premier warmly welcomed. With the Queensland government a principal partner, stalls and speeches at the event highlighted the work my department and others do for the sector.

It was not just this side of the House that enjoyed the hospitality that Beef 2021 offered; I note that some members opposite were in attendance as well. In fact, for those not there, *Queensland Country Life* had a wonderful wrap-up of the event—online and in hard copy—which I am happy to table for the House. It is a fantastic front page and a credit to *Queensland Country Life*.

*Tabled paper: Queensland Country Life newspaper, dated Thursday, 6 May 2021 [614](#).*

While on the subject of *Queensland Country Life*, I acknowledge editor Melody; journalists Sally, Helen, Victoria and James; and the whole crew for their excellent coverage of Beef Australia 2021—and of course my QCL tie, which I will not be tabling! In particular, I acknowledge our Queensland Japanese Consul-General, Tanaka-san, who took time out to visit during the week and inspect some of the exports. Japan is acknowledged as being our greatest beef export market in the world.

Beef 2021 is a key event for the agricultural sector, with AgForce, pastoral companies, banks, processors, locals and tourists wanting a great steak. Mayor Tony Williams will be counting down the days until Rockhampton holds Beef 2024 in three years—and on this side of the House we all look forward to it and will be there.