




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Agritourism

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.06 am): How's that? What a celebration!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr FURNER: Once again we hear the cries of adulation from those opposite!

Agriculture continues to play a key role in delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19. Producers I have spoken to in the past year have said that, in order to deliver that plan, the agriculture sector needs more opportunities to diversify—diversification into new products, diversification into new markets but also diversification into new industries like agritourism. That is why the Palaszczuk government has \$2 million on the table to help grow agritourism in Queensland. A strong agritourism market helps grow our regions, which ultimately delivers Queensland's plan for economic recovery.

Part of the Palaszczuk government's \$2 million investment is being used to run the 'Taste farm life' campaign, which I launched at Henderson Park Farm Retreat near Rockhampton earlier this month during Beef Australia. We have amazing farms run by excellent producers and we want the rest of Australia to come and see them firsthand. The Palaszczuk government also wants to help the next generation of producers who are thinking about diversifying into agritourism. Last week, we supported 50 farmers from around the state to attend the Farm 2 Plate Exchange conference in the Scenic Rim. The conference brought together farmers and chefs, tourism and hospitality businesses to make valuable connections and discuss opportunities to grow visitor experiences from paddock to plate.

I want to pay tribute to Kay Tommerup, an #eatqld champion, who advocated for those 50 farmers to be supported to go to this conference. Kay runs a very successful agritourism business at her dairy farm in the Scenic Rim and she wants to see the sector grow right around the state, and so does the Palaszczuk government. I was fortunate to attend the Farm 2 Plate Exchange closing dinner last week. I got to meet some of those farmers that we supported like the producers from the Farm 2 Fork Collective in the South Burnett as well as Naomi from Blue River Microgreens and Deb McLucas from Mackay. They told me that, if it were not for our support, they would not have been able to attend this great conference. They are taking home what they have learnt at Farm 2 Plate Exchange to put it into practice. I cannot wait to see what they will do next.

The potential for Queensland's agritourism industry was reflected at that dinner. Everything served that night was grown and produced right there in the Scenic Rim. From local pumpkins and corn to the beef and dairy, the Scenic Rim and its local agritourism industry was very much on show. I know that producers at Farm 2 Plate Exchange have great ideas about how to show off their farms and produce to the rest of Australia. The Palaszczuk government will be standing there shoulder to shoulder with them supporting them every step along the way.