



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Hydrogen Industry**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.33 pm): Before I commence, I table two petition responses.

*Tabled paper.* Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3590-21), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 685 petitioners, requesting the House to subsidise essential media access in a printed format to rural and regional Queensland, the same way that other essential services are subsidised in regional areas to support equity and access [1756](#).

*Tabled paper.* Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3529-21), sponsored by the member for Bundamba, Mr McCallum, from 723 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the RSPCA is properly funded [1757](#).

This week we have heard about the great investments being made in hydrogen in this state by the Palaszczuk government. These investments will mean more jobs in more industries. Recent announcements by the Palaszczuk government highlight how developing the hydrogen industry will assist our primary industries. This includes delivering a globally competitive energy solution that is centred around firm, low-carbon electricity for industry. Industry will benefit but so too will the environment. The environment that has low clouds hanging over it is in the National Party room. 'Coal Dust Canavan', rather than supporting the industrialised investments in hydrogen in Central Queensland, is still talking about coal-fired power stations—a 'Coal-Magnon man' solution for 21st century needs.

What the National Party forgets is that we have an environment that needs to be protected for agricultural purposes as well. We need to support efforts to keep emissions down and temperatures down. While I support the coal sector in this state, there needs to be a transition not because of Glasgow but because it is the right thing to do for the planet.

I am not going to be a 'proclaimer' here, but Scott Morrison should go those 500 miles and 500 miles more to be at Prince Charles's door. It is too bad that Scott has taken the low road when we need to take the high road when it comes to the climate. We need to ensure the industry has a story to tell to world markets on the production of clean, green produce, which our reputation has been built on thanks to our hardworking men and women on farms in Queensland. That means taking action on climate change, looking to innovation like hydrogen and ensuring renewables are supported.

The National Party is slowly being brought into the 21st century kicking and screaming. The disinformation and dissent is not working. Agricultural industries already have targets—targets that even the LNP cannot commit to, targets that have been set by stakeholders in the agricultural sector. It is time for the LNP to be more brave of heart. The LNP may have it in their minds that they are William Wallace in *Braveheart* shouting about 'freeeee-dom' but, like so many in the LNP, it is mere acting and not good acting at that.

The only party in Queensland that will look after the worker, look after farmers and the people of Queensland when it comes to supporting jobs and supporting action on climate change is the Labor Party. I hear it so often—conversations around kitchen tables and in the paddocks on farms throughout Queensland: the tide is shifting. The mood is changing. Farmers believe in what needs to happen to make sure their produce maintains its good reputation of being clean and green. They know the reputation they have built on the back of their hard work to get their produce out to the world.