




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Egg Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.36 am): One of life's unanswered questions is: what came first—the chicken or the egg? I can answer that because last Friday was World Egg Day and today is World Chicken Day. Queensland is known for leading the nation in all kinds of agricultural production. I want to highlight one particular sector and that is egg production.

Last year's Australian Eggs annual report shows that Queensland did indeed lead all other states, with 31.36 per cent of the national flock of almost 29 million birds. When you consider that equates to a farm gate value of \$268 million in Queensland alone—a cracking performance in anybody's language—clearly Queenslanders do not mind shelling out for a quality product.

As is the case with the rest of our farming sector, the Palaszczuk government is a strong supporter of our egg industry, including important industry collaboration in the initial phases of the COVID-19 pandemic to keep important supply chains in motion. Total national egg production in 2019-20 was more than 507 million dozen—and that is nothing to 'yolk' about! We know Queenslanders were shell-shocked in the initial phases of the pandemic, but I am proud that the Palaszczuk government was able to hatch a plan and work tirelessly with industry on a way forward.

Of course, we know Queensland farmers are never beaten, and that is certainly true of the Queensland egg industry. This record of achievement cannot be 'egg-nored'. It is so full of delicious achievement that even I struggle to 'egg-spress' how good our egg farmers are. It is especially important to pay tribute to our chicken and egg farmers who have made an important contribution to Queensland's 'egg-conomy'.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, it started out so well!