




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Food and Beverage Exports

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.43 am): From the Atherton Tablelands to the fertile plains of the Darling Downs, Queensland produces some of the finest food and beverages in the world. It sounds like we have a call coming in at the moment to recognise that. Apologies, Speaker. The world knows it and the world wants our products. In the 2021-22 financial year, Queensland's food and beverage exports were valued at \$11 billion—a 23.9 per cent increase from the previous financial year.

Last week, Queensland's world-leading food and beverage companies had the opportunity to promote their products through the Taste of Queensland Showcase. This smorgasbord of Queensland quality was organised by Trade and Investment Queensland and it gave global buyers the chance to sample the best of Queensland firsthand. Some 62 buyers representing China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Middle East, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the United States and Europe flew to Brisbane for the first in-person Taste of Queensland event since 2019.

Ms Palaszczuk: Well done!

Mr DICK: Thank you, Premier. They came to meet over 80 Queensland food and beverage exhibitors from across the state. The three-day program included showcases on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. Minister Furner hosted a beef networking function in Toowoomba—there is no better host than the farmers' friend—where delegates met with Queensland beef exporters, while the Assistant Member for Treasury and member for Jordan, Charis Mullen, hosted a Taste of Queensland event on the Sunshine Coast.

One of the great selling points of Queensland produce is, of course, its state of origin. Events like Taste of Queensland give buyers the opportunity to savour the tastes and hear the stories of outstanding Queenslanders that cannot be experienced in any other way—stories like the Wolf Lane Distillery from Cairns that is now exporting its gin seltzers. They are very spritzzy, Premier! Our state is renowned for its innovation—

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr DICK: Putting the fizz into gin. Our state is increasingly renowned for innovation and forward thinking, and the food and beverage sector is no different. Queensland is at the cutting edge of producing what is known as functional food. This includes plant-based and wellness products which have a rapidly growing profile around the world. Also present at the Taste of Queensland was Fable Food from the Sunshine Coast, which has just launched its plant-based products at Marks & Spencer in London.

We hope that in the next fortnight one of the greatest tastes of Queensland will become an official taste of Australia. Bundaberg Brewed Drinks was named Queensland Exporter of the Year last month and on 24 November they will represent Queensland in the Australian Export Awards in Canberra. It is a great opportunity for another great Queensland company to shine.