



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Federal Budget, Agriculture**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.11 am): Tonight the eyes of rural Queensland will be on Canberra focusing on what will be delivered in the budget. The LNP has made big infrastructure announcements already yet nothing on agriculture—except for yet another announcement about the ag visa. In a tweet yesterday, David Littleproud told us that Vietnam has signed up to the new scheme. I cannot wait to see those thousands of workers that he promised would be here by Christmas—Christmas 2021, that was—because this is what the LNP in Canberra does and it is what the people of Queensland expect: announcement after announcement, tweet after tweet but nothing to back it up. It talks the talk but does not walk the walk. On its watch threats to Queensland's agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors are coming via sea or sky—straight past the federal government's jurisdiction.

By failing to do anything but to announce things, it has failed to introduce policy that would protect the states and territories from biosecurity threats. The brown marmorated stink bug recently arrived on the Gold Coast via a federally governed port via a ship. It was a bit like the *Ruby Princess*—a ship full of biosecurity threats and a ship that the federal government failed to contain.

What the farmers of this state want to see from tonight's budget is real action, not another Oscar performance. They want more funding and more action for the Bureau of Meteorology. We need to get Queensland's fair share for agriculture in the budget. Producers the Premier and I have spoken to after recent flood events near Inglewood, Gympie and the Lockyer Valley say that they want to see the bureau properly resourced so that communities can get better advice on extreme weather events, and these extreme weather events are becoming more frequent. However, this is clearly not on this federal government's radar because it still has not come to terms with climate change.

In these unprecedented times we have had a federal government that continues to fail our farmers. The lack of engagement with the states and territories through Agmin clearly shows that the LNP and David Littleproud are more concerned about their own jobs than working for our producers. Here in Queensland the Palaszczuk government is getting on with delivering Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19, working hand in hand with our farmers because, unlike David Littleproud, the Palaszczuk government actually cares about our farmers and every member of the Palaszczuk government is the farmers' friend.