



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 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) (10.09 am): The budget delivered by the federal Liberal National Party government this week has let down rural and regional Queensland. While there were some big announcements, that is all they were—announcements. This federal government has form on being all announcements but no delivery. They fail to sow but hope to reap. They have sold out to the inner-city Liberals and abandoned the bush.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, member for Southern Downs!

**Mr FURNER:** The agriculture visa is still an announcement without one single visa issued and not one single worker has arrived in this nation. This visa was announced four years ago and was promised to be in place before Christmas last year. With still no detail about the application process, there are dodgy budget numbers on taxation revenue from these workers. Is this another backpacker tax fiasco in the making?

It also remains to be seen where the federal government stands on biosecurity. After previous failures when it comes to brown marmorated stink bugs, white spot and khapra beetle incursions, Queenslanders have to wonder whether the federal government is really up to protecting our borders. The National Farmers' Federation, our peak agricultural body in this nation, said—

The Budget again failed to deliver an adequate and sustainable funding pipeline for the modernisation and expansion of Australia's biosecurity system and there was insufficient investment to address imminent biosecurity threats.

The federal government's biosecurity failures are putting the entire agriculture industry at risk. We know that the dam announcements have been previously flagged, but the money will likely never flow.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Southern Downs is warned under the standing orders.

**Mr FURNER:** In the heady pre-pandemic days of 2013, the LNP was elected on glossy brochures on dams and Barnaby Joyce trumpeted a white paper for Northern Australia—again, announcements without delivery. Yesterday, Barnaby—nine years gone from Queensland and still hurting our state—abolished his own advisory board on dams after one of its members said his dam announcements were made for 'brazen political purposes'. Barnaby cannot deliver for Queensland farmers. David Littleproud cannot deliver for Queensland farmers. You can bet your bottom dollar that those sorry Scott Morrison apologists sitting opposite cannot deliver for Queensland farmers either.

The LNP Leader of the Opposition failed to stand up to Scott Morrison and his LNP mates to demand Queensland received our fair share. Labor in Queensland is happy to stand on its record when it comes to the agriculture industry—and I am sure that Anthony Albanese and a federal Labor government will do a damn sight better than the current crop of lazy LNP no-hopers. Senator Fierravanti-Wells got it right when she said that this LNP federal government is not fit for office.