




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Pineapple Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (7.15 pm): Queenslanders have a lot to be proud of in the Sunshine State. They should be proud of our key agricultural industries. However, I will explain later in my contribution how that is not always the case. Tonight I would like to talk about the pineapple industry. Pineapple is an iconic fruit in this state, as all Queenslanders know. In fact it is so famous that there is even the Big Pineapple in Woombye, in the famous seat of Nicklin, with our strong Labor member up there representing that industry very well.

The pineapple industry is a \$68 million crop for this state. For many years, pineapples from across the state have been destined for the Golden Circle cannery at Northgate to be processed. I am proud that in my previous life I was able to represent the thousands of workers there who are dedicated to that industry and dedicated to help feed Queensland with quality Queensland produce. I am advised that even today the Northgate cannery produces over 150,000 tonnes of canned pineapple, fruit juices and cordials per year.

I am sure the industry will be shocked to know that, although we on this side of the chamber have a passion for pineapples, the Leader of the Opposition is not a fan. Some of those opposite may be surprised to hear that and to learn of TikTok, and they will be even more surprised to learn that their leader is on that platform attacking pineapples. For those who have not seen the video, the non-pineapple-loving member for Broadwater is in what looks like a commercial kitchen with a can of pineapple. At this point, although the label is obscured, they do not seem to be Queensland packed pineapples; in fact they are most likely imported pineapples—so much for the influence of the National Party in their leader's eating habits. Then the Leader of the Opposition throws the can of pineapple into the bin. I am unsure if the member went back to retrieve that can from the bin for consumption later or if it became wasted food. Either way it was a deeply disrespectful approach to such an iconic Queensland fruit.

With Hort Connections occurring this month, it will be a prickly reception for those LNP members when they show their faces. Queenslanders have learnt one thing—that the LNP have past form on the rough end of the pineapple when it comes to their policies. Queenslanders cannot trust the LNP on pineapples, and Queenslanders should can them for it. We should never tell Queenslanders where to put their pineapples—whether that be on a pizza or anywhere else—and that includes those opposite and the Leader of the Opposition.