




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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ADJOURNMENT

Member for Whitsunday, Spanish Mackerel Fishery

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (6.10 pm): The people of Whitsunday are being misled by their member. Just recently the member placed a misleading ad in her local paper, asking readers to look up a QR code and sign a petition about the Spanish mackerel fishery. It claims the Palaszczuk government has not consulted the public on the future management of the Spanish mackerel fishery. That is clearly untrue because the member selectively used information from the consultation discussion paper as part of her misleading ad. The ad deceitfully uses information selectively pinched from a widely available departmental discussion paper. The ad is scurrilous, deceptive and downright wrong. The material even claims that the deceptively skewed information has been sourced from Queensland Fisheries. The member for Whitsunday should hang her head in shame because that is not the case.

This LNP commissioned the MRAG report on the future of Queensland Fisheries but lacked the intestinal fortitude to table it and, more importantly, to act on it. In this chamber the LNP tried to disallow regulations so that black marketers could have a five-day head start before being inspected. The LNP has not bothered to seek a briefing on this fishery, despite one being offered. The science does not lie: stocks of Spanish mackerel are at 17 per cent and doing nothing is not an option. When LNP members talk about fisheries science they sound like climate deniers who watch an ever-increasing tide of climate disasters while denying the science.

The Palaszczuk government promised to consult on this important fishery and we did. Submissions on the discussion paper closed last week and the department has met commercial fishers along the coast. Information from the consultation is being analysed and, as promised, we will do another round of consultation before a decision on action is made.

The Palaszczuk government knows that without a sustainable Spanish mackerel fishery there will be no jobs for the people who catch those fish for a living. We will get on with ensuring a sustainable fishery while the member for Whitsunday and her LNP colleagues spread misinformation. They put their fishy political instincts and interests before the Queensland people. The LNP are like a dead fish: they are rotting from the head down.

If the member for Whitsunday cannot be trusted to tell the whole truth to her constituents then she and the LNP cannot be trusted to protect Queensland's fisheries sector. It is high time the LNP woke up and put Queenslanders first by backing our sustainable fisheries reforms. I do question whether the ad was paid from the member's EO allowance, in which case the money spent on that ad should be paid back to the government because it gives the public misleading information. This demonstrates the scurrilous attacks and the misinformation they are spreading right throughout the community.

(Time expired)