




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 18 August 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Rural Economic Development Grants

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.12 am): One of the things the Palaszczuk government is most proud of is our ability to create jobs in the agricultural sector. One of the hallmarks of this government's backing of the agriculture sector is the Rural Economic Development Grant scheme. In the last term of government we promised \$10 million in matched grants to help businesses in rural and regional Queensland to expand and to create jobs. We delivered on that promise with more than 30 projects supported and that in turn created more than 1,800 jobs across the state. We know what the RED Grants mean to rural Queensland. That is why we launched a fourth round of the scheme, because creating jobs for Queenslanders is what the Palaszczuk government has done, is doing and will continue to do.

I am pleased to announce that one of the first RED Grants recipients from round 4 is Wallaroo Produce Supplies on the Southern Downs. It wants to expand its storage and packing line facilities and upgrade its coldrooms. This means that Wallaroo will be able to increase vegetable production, and the member for Southern Downs will be pleased to know it also means more jobs for the people of the Southern Downs. The Premier brought community cabinet to the Southern Downs in June and now we are delivering good jobs for the region as well—12 long-term, full-time jobs, not to mention the other jobs in construction from this project alone. I will have more to say about other successful RED Grants recipients in the coming weeks. This is good news for the people of regional Queensland and proves yet again that the Palaszczuk government continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with our farmers.