



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Climate Change**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.38 am): Every day while we are working for the people of Queensland we come across some people who make rapid judgements on people and on issues based on stereotypes. Sometimes these might have a basis in people's experience, but there are so many more that just do not stack up to any level of analysis. One, believed by some, is that city people do not care about farmers. I can tell members for a fact that that is not true. We only need to look at attendance levels at the Ekka this year and many country shows to see that is not the case.

Some people might not have a deep understanding of what the life of a farmer is like, but that does not mean that they are ignorant and it does not mean that they do not care about the outcomes for farmers. Another stereotype held by some is that farmers do not care about our belief in climate change. That is another one that I can tell the House is fundamentally untrue. Some people have not embraced the science of climate change, but there are as many of them in the cities and regional centres as there are in rural areas of our state.

I can say that some of the most passionate advocates I have met for action on climate change have been farmers and their representatives. In fact, there is a very strong recognition of the need for action on climate change in our agricultural industries. Organisations like the National Farmers' Federation and Meat and Livestock Australia have already made notable commitments on reducing emissions in the industries that they represent. It is not because of some woke, inner-city, latte-sipping agenda. It is because that is what markets now demand and it is what the agriculture industry needs to do.

No industry is as impacted by the results of climate change as our agricultural industry, and we are backing them 100 per cent as they tackle it through initiatives such as the Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap, where we have partnered with AgForce and the Queensland Farmers' Federation. In this context our game-changing Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is as much about protecting conditions for our farmers as it is about creating jobs. Regional Queensland is at the centre of this clean energy industrial revolution, with 95 per cent of the investment in regional Queensland. Our farmers and rural communities will reap the benefits in sustainable energy, in good jobs, in tackling climate change and in cheaper, cleaner and secure energy supplies.