




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Ferny Grove, Infrastructure

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.21 pm): Like many others in this chamber, my electorate of Ferny Grove was heavily affected by the devastating rain events and flooding in February and March of this year. Sporting clubs went under, houses and businesses were damaged, roads were closed and projects were disrupted. If there is one thing that Queenslanders know, it is that after adversity we rebuild. I am proud to report that the affected clubs in my electorate have received grants of just under \$2 million to rebuild affected fields and replace damaged equipment and facilities. Norths Hockey, Ferny Grove Falcons AFL, West Mitchelton and West Arana Rugby League clubs, Keperra golf club, Westside football club and the Mitchelton Youth Club have all received funding to build back better than before.

Work on the landmark Ferny Grove Transit Oriented Development is continuing, with stage 1 due to be completed early in the New Year. Stage 1 will provide a massive increase to parking at the station and has already provided a cash injection to our community through hundreds of well-paid construction jobs. This project, like many others across the region, was also affected by the extraordinary weather events we experienced this year, but it is still on track to be completed by the year 2024.

Schools in my electorate continue to benefit from the record investment in education by this government. What a great education minister we have—the best in this parliament. From new and refurbished classrooms across the electorate to an entire revamp of the Mitchelton Special School, students will be learning in the latest state-of-the-art facilities. I am pleased to report that the next round of construction is about to kick off on major upgrades across the electorate, from Patricks Road—which again featured in NAPLAN results—to Oakleigh, which will also see construction for a new sports and performing arts hall. This infrastructure is something that generations of Oakleigh families have wanted for their students at the school and is something that I promised to deliver at the 2020 election. Soon we will be breaking ground for that project and we will deliver on that promise.

I am pleased to report that, even though it has been a tough year for many people, we are rising above those challenges and the future of our community has never looked better. I join with many other colleagues in the chamber this afternoon in wishing those on both sides of the chamber a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I also wish the regional mayors from Central Queensland—many of whom I communicate with, time and time again, along with my ministerial colleagues—the very best for a prosperous New Year. They are salt-of-the-earth people who know our regions and know that they can rely upon the support of the Palaszczuk government. We deliver for them time and time again. We know the issues they face in their regions. That is why the Palaszczuk government is completely focused on delivering on their needs right across their sectors. We will continue that support throughout next year and into 2024.