




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mangoes

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.03 am): Queensland has a long and proud tradition of backing its agricultural industries to succeed, and that is certainly the case when you consider the work of the Palaszczuk Labor government. We support our farmers through drought and flood, through cyclones and through all sorts of climate impacts. We elevate their produce on the world stage through international trade missions, supported by the wonderful team at Trade and Investment Queensland. We supported them through the COVID-19 pandemic by declaring the industry essential and helping them cross borders to get their produce from paddocks to plates.

The support we provide is not always in response to a dramatic development or disaster. This week represents the 40th anniversary of the development of the R2E2 mango by researchers from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. It was Queensland government scientists at our Bowen research facility who made the breakthroughs that meant this now highly popular mango variety is enjoyed around Australia and in other places. In 1982 they struck mouth-watering gold by crossing a Bowen and Kent mango and creating the R2E2. Mr Speaker, no doubt you will enjoy the mango the Premier tabled in the House today. Now, 40 years later, not only has the fruit become a summer staple across Australia but also it is popular with international exports. R2E2 has accounted for up to 70 per cent of all mangoes exported from Australia. The mango has gained wide acceptance throughout all mango-growing regions and is the third most popular variety grown in Australia.

The impact of this kind of research is the reason why in the state budget we have committed \$140 million in research and extension funding to help our farmers become even more successful, supporting thousands of good jobs across the state. The Palaszczuk government is the best friend of Queensland farmers, and that is why I am known as the farmer's friend.