



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Fish Tagging**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.09 pm): Australia's volunteer fish-tagging database, Infofish, recently became the first citizen science tagging program in the world to tag one million fish since the program began in 1986. Earlier this year I was glad to join Infofish and partners in their celebration of this huge achievement. I want to recognise Bill Sawynok, the secretary of program partner Suntag Australia, for his commitment and hard work which have greatly contributed to the program's success. Community based fish tagging has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the movement, patterns and growth rates of many fish, particularly freshwater species such as Australian bass and silver perch. The data provided by recreational anglers as part of the Infofish program is often used in combination with targeted biological data and fisheries information collected by Fisheries Queensland to inform the assessment of some of Queensland's most important recreational species.

To promote the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme, the Freshwater Fishing & Stocking Association of Queensland is running a pilot tag fish competition in Northern and Central Queensland where anglers can share up to \$50,000 in prize money for catching one of 100 tagged fish—less of an instant scratch-it, more of an instant catch-it! The fish, including bass and barramundi, have been tagged and released across five participating impoundments in the Wide Bay-Burnett and Central and North Queensland regions, specifically in Lake Tinaroo, Lake Proserpine, Kinchant Dam, Lake Callide and Lake Cania. Of the \$50,000 up for grabs, three lucky anglers have already shared in \$35,000 for reeling in three of the prize-winning fish. There is still \$15,000 up for grabs, so I encourage all keen fishers in those regions to get out there and drop a line.

Fish tagging has been historically used to collect data on growth rates, movement and survival of a number of key fish species of recreational interest which has contributed to fisheries management and the protection of endangered fish. The Palaszczuk government's priority has been and will always be securing the future of our Queensland fishing industries for our children and our grandchildren. That is why the Palaszczuk government has invested \$46.49 million to date to our sustainable fisheries strategy to ensure a sustainable fishery is there for our children and our grandchildren. It is possible that the LNP might one day catch on to the importance of sustainable fisheries, but the chances really are one in a million.