




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

North-West Queensland, Flood Recovery

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.03 am): On Friday, 17 March I joined the member for Traeger in visiting some of the areas of his electorate that were impacted by recent flooding. The assessments are still in the early stages, and it will take a while to know the full impact of cattle losses in that region. My department assisted with fodder drops to keep alive those animals that had survived the floodwaters. Our assistance for the region will continue. As we know, events such as these need community support for the long run. My department will continue to work with the region and local governments in the recovery arrangements from an agriculture perspective. Category B assistance was activated quickly. Primary producers can access this assistance through the Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority.

At Doomadgee we also crossed paths with the federal member for Kennedy, Bob Katter, and joined him in seeing the impacts of the town being cut off by the waters and the impacts across some service delivery. We visited the Tirranna roadhouse, where there had been substantial inundation from floodwaters with such force that a concrete truck had been moved off the road and spun around. I saw the impacts on homes and businesses as water came up to the floorboards and in some cases up to the ceiling.

At Escott Station, their impacts are still being assessed as the cleaning was well underway. Again, the sheer magnitude of the water destabilised trucks and equipment and washed a tank hundreds of metres away. I was informed by them that they had not seen flooding at this level for the last five decades. At Burketown there were discussions around telecommunication concerns at the time of the flood and the challenges that will be faced in rebuilding. We will continue to work with industry. I thank AgForce for its engagement as well the Commonwealth government for its assistance. Queenslanders can be assured that the Palaszczuk government will continue to support our great Queensland beef sector.