



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Timber Industry Ministerial Roundtable**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.57 pm): Recently I had the privilege of chairing the Timber Industry Ministerial Roundtable at DAF's Salisbury research facility, Australia's premier forest product research facility. Joined by industry leaders from some of Queensland's key businesses and industry representatives, the round table got to work providing updates on the sector. This round table is also a great opportunity for me to hear from colleagues about the challenges on the ground as well as productive and innovative ways forward for the industry from the industry. All stakeholders contributed to the meeting in a meaningful way, discussing how the timber industry can contribute to other Labor government commitments such as housing supply and Queensland's effort to be carbon positive.

The timber industry is predominantly a male-dominated industry. However, it is pleasing to note that the round table was made up of around 30 per cent women. It is also welcome to have key positions in industry occupied by women. As the member for Maryborough is aware, a former member for Maryborough and the founder of Hyne Timber, Richard Matthews Hyne, was well ahead of the game, once stating—

Women are subject to the laws yet have no say in making them. They may own property and run business, so why should they not be enfranchised to vote? The notions that giving the vote to women would make them less womanly, or that their delicate constitutions would be challenged by the robust nature of political life, are plainly ridiculous.

I could not agree more.

We all know that trees are a great way to capture carbon and so last month in Rockhampton I was pleased to launch the Queensland Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap. This road map was produced with the support of the Queensland Farmers' Federation and AgForce. The road map is as a result of engagement with industry, with key themes and actions identified in a commissioned CSIRO report. The Palaszczuk government has joined with industry partners to create the best conditions for a sustainable future across five focused pathways: livestock emissions; cropping and horticultural emissions; on-farm energy opportunities; carbon farming and landscape management; regions and supply chains. Industry and primary producers are at the forefront in trying to reduce their emissions. By industry and government working together we will all make a difference to the environment while ensuring we maintain a profitable and productive agricultural sector.

I was also fortunate today to meet the new CEO of HQ Plantations Jason Wilson. Jason, a former deputy director-general at the Ministry for Primary Industries New Zealand, will bring a wealth of experience to the company. While in New Zealand he led the partnership between government, industry and workforce and Maori to strengthen New Zealand's forestry and wood processing supply chain. I wish Jason well and look forward to working with him to see this important industry of forestry grow well into the future with the hard work and commitment of the Palaszczuk government.