




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Beef Australia 2024

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.24 am): If you want excitement, listen to this. The countdown has begun and I, for one, could not be more excited to join the stampede of government members to the beef capital of the world, Rockhampton, next year for Beef 2024. I am sorry to Casino, but if Queensland and New South Wales were to have a 'Steak of Origin' I know who I would be backing. I was thrilled to mark 'one year to go' alongside the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport last Wednesday night at a Beef Australia event at the Breakfast Creek Hotel. Given the quality of Queensland steak on offer, it was a good choice of venue.

Winding the clock back two years, I was absolutely thrilled to join the Premier, the Treasurer, copious number of Labor members and a couple of LNP members at Beef 2021. I know that the members for Rockhampton and Keppel are strong supporters of the jobs, tourism and enjoyment that Beef Week brings to the city, and I look forward to joining them in Rockhampton next year. Beef Week 2021 was held at a time when border closures and other COVID restrictions were in place to keep Queenslanders safe. Despite the fact that Beef 2021 was unable to welcome international guests, it still broke attendance records. With the borders now well and truly open and with the Palaszczuk government's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan continuing to take Queensland from strength to strength, I am looking forward to seeing Beef 2024 break that attendance record.

Beef Australia does a mountain of work in organising the event. I want to place on the record my appreciation for the efforts of Beef Australia chair and #eatqld champion Bryce Camm, Beef Australia CEO Simon Irwin and their team. Not too long ago I spoke with Simon Irwin in Rockhampton about plans for Beef 2024, and I can say that we are in for a treat. The Palaszczuk government is a strong supporter of Beef 2024, as well as the entire Queensland beef industry, for the good jobs and good food that it brings to our state.