



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Agriculture Exports**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.23 am): Queensland's global reputation for clean, green and great-tasting produce is serving the state and its economy very well. It gives me great pleasure to inform the House that Queensland's agriculture sector delivered a surge in exports to record a record high of \$12.51 billion for the last financial year. Data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics marks the second consecutive year of increasing exports, cementing the industry's position as a vital contributor to the state's economy. The \$12.51 billion figure was a 16.8 per cent increase over the previous financial year, representing an increase of \$1.79 billion. The ABS data shows the total export value of the state's agriculture sector has surged by an impressive 25.16 per cent compared to the average value of the past five financial years.

The record-breaking export levels were underpinned by robust prices and a surge in export volumes which lifted by 18.26 per cent to reach 7.87 million tonnes. Key growth commodities for 2022-23 were cereals and cereal preparations up 53.64 per cent to \$2.54 billion; chickpeas up 37.26 per cent to \$369.12 million; live cattle up 53.94 per cent to \$147.96 million, accompanied by a 9.83 per cent increase in export volume; and beef up 11.05 per cent to \$6.28 billion, with volume up 7.38 per cent to 598.765 tonnes. In the horticulture sector the volume of fruit and vegetables exported rose 3.25 per cent. Avocados were a notable winner, with exports up 38.5 per cent to \$38.21 million and with volume up 24.09 per cent.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am sorry, Minister. Pause the clock. Members, if you are hearing about choice avocados and wishing to write your shopping lists, please do it at another time. The minister cannot be heard over the conversations.

**Mr FURNER:** I am sure they enjoy them smashed as I do. In 2022-23, Queensland's top three agricultural trading partners were China, \$2.73 billion; South Korea, \$1.82 billion; and Japan, \$1.71 billion. Key markets where exports of Queensland agricultural products increased were China, up a remarkable 53.5 per cent in value; Indonesia, up 40.1 per cent; USA, up 19.9 per cent; Vietnam, up 19.6 per cent; and South Korea, up 13.2 per cent. What this all means is good jobs for more than 360,000 people and it highlights a real driving force behind the state's economic performance. The Palaszczuk government will always back Queensland farmers as our agricultural industries continue to go from strength to strength.