




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Fishing Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.51 pm): Everyone in this place knows of the Palaszczuk government's support for fisheries. I have been very clear that I want to see fisheries that are sustainable for our children and our grandchildren—well into the future. This government has supported and will continue to support our recreational, commercial and charter sectors while also recognising our First Nations peoples. We have a Sustainable Fisheries Strategy to ensure we have a framework that is nation-leading and meets Commonwealth regulatory requirements such as WTO as well as international expectations when we consider wonders such as the Great Barrier Reef. No-one should forget how we got here. We made the creation of a sustainable fisheries strategy a 2015 election commitment.

While the previous LNP government commissioned the report *Taking stock: modernising fisheries management in Queensland* to modernise fisheries management in Queensland, that report was gathering dust until we picked it up. It was left to the Palaszczuk government when it came to office to release this report and undertake a process of public consultation. We established working groups and worked with stakeholders to develop strategies to create more sustainable fisheries. This became our Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, which this government continues to invest in. In fact—

An honourable member: The fishos' friend.

Mr FURNER: I take that interjection. The most recent budget included \$11.7 million over three years to continue the fisheries reform process, including upgrades to compliance systems and fish aggregating devices for pelagic fish. There is also \$22 million over four years to monitor commercial fishing activities at sea to support sustainable fisheries management. At the Ekka I saw the community interest in the QBFP display as well as the pest fish display. There is genuine interest in a sustainable seafood sector that will deliver for all Queenslanders.

Queenslanders know what the LNP did to fisheries—a 28 per cent cut to staff. The LNP refuses to support the science of fisheries, to stop black marketers and to meet our national and international commitments. The LNP refuses to back the hard work our fisheries staff do day in, day out. The contribution from the member for Gympie during the last sitting week highlights that those opposite still have no understanding of how fisheries science along with requirements and expectations from the Commonwealth and the international community impact this state's fisheries sector. You would have to be an oxygen thief not to understand the processes of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy.

Queenslanders deserve more than what the LNP delivers and more than what the LNP delivered in the past. As much as the LNP thinks Queenslanders are like Dory in *Finding Nemo*, Queenslanders remember. Queenslanders fish and they vote. Only this side of the House will protect and strengthen our fisheries sector, right now and into the future.