



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Sector**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.56 am): Queensland is truly one of the world's great agricultural powerhouses, and the latest revised AgTrends data proves this. Queensland's agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector has reached a historic high in 2022-23 and is now worth a record \$24.44 billion, up from \$23.44 billion forecast for this period. The Hinchinbrook, Mackay, Burdekin and Douglas regions all recorded 25 per cent gross value of production growth or better. This record value of production is supporting the entire agribusiness supply chain.

In 2022-23 the value of the supply chain is forecast at a record \$33.76 billion, a 7.6 per cent increase from the prior year. Looking ahead to 2023-24, production is forecast to remain high at \$23.67 billion, supported by recent La Nina conditions, which have contributed to good soil moisture reserves along with high water storage levels, and strong prices across many of our key commodities. Sugar cane GVP is expected to rise by \$525 million to \$2.075 billion compared to last year, an increase of 33 per cent on last year and 41 per cent higher than the five-year average. Supporting primary production, sugarcane processing is forecast to rise by 30 per cent to \$1.2 billion.

Fisheries and aquaculture are also expected to grow in value in 2023-24 by 4.9 per cent compared to 2022-23, up from \$508 million to \$533 million, reflecting higher production volumes for some species such as prawns and price increases offsetting lower volumes of other cultured species. Over the medium term, aquaculture is expected to continue growing.

In other good news, cattle and calves were valued at \$6.61 billion in 2022-23 and forecast at \$6.7 billion in 2023-24, marking a 2.1 per cent increase. Following two bumper years for broadacre crops, the sector is forecast to deliver the third-highest value on record at \$4.7 billion. This is a 16 per cent year-on-year decline, with drier conditions and declining global prices, but a 14.5 per cent increase in value based on the average of the last five years.

Make no mistake: these revised AgTrends figures are great news for Queensland agriculture, forestry and fisheries. That is good news for Queensland jobs and Queensland's economy and great news for Queensland's regional communities.

I thank the Premier for delivering her ministerial statement on mangoes. Certainly, it was great to be there to see the Brisbane Markets mango auction take place. The \$40,000 from the auction of the tray of mangoes along with other items resulted in \$58,000 for Red Kite and the Lady Musgrave Trust, a great contribution to those not-for-profit groups.