




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Beef Week

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (8.48 pm): What a week we have had in Rocky with the biggest beef exhibition in the Southern Hemisphere. It was even bigger with the return of international guests and a multitude of passionate locals fuelling record crowds for Beef 2024.

Mr Stevens: Tomahawk steak.

Mr O'ROURKE: That too; the steaks were pretty good. Support for the event is booming post COVID and people converged on Rockhampton, the beef capital of Australia, for a week-long festival of cattle culture. Ticket sales surged with 119,324 people going through the gates at the Rockhampton Showgrounds over the course of the week, which was up from 115,866 three years ago. That is a lot of people when we consider that the population of Rockhampton is approximately 82,000 people.

For the people who have not been to Beef Week, it is like the Brisbane Ekka on steroids. We had people from across the country converge on Rockhampton. There were over 600 international delegates and 35 countries represented. All came to see the best of the best in our beef industry. It really puts Rockhampton on the world map as a beef cattle destination. Everything that you want to see and know about the Queensland beef industry is on display.

Beef produced in Queensland is consumed in more than 60 countries around the world, and I am not surprised as it is the best tasting, cleanest and greenest beef in the world. Queensland is home to almost half of Australia's cattle herd. Beef is our most valuable agricultural export, worth some \$10 million a year, and the industry supports about 40,000 jobs. That is why our government is increasing our support for Beef 2027 and the beef industry. It was great to see that the Miles government has increased its support to the Queensland beef industry by announcing a doubling in funding for Beef 2027 and other assistance for the beef sector, worth \$2.45 million. The Albanese government was proud to support Beef 2024 with a record \$6 million investment.

We understand the importance of the cattle industry. This year's Beef Week was a huge success thanks to the work of the organisers and all involved. A special thanks goes to all of the wonderful volunteers, sponsors, competitors, exhibitors and of course all of the visitors to the region, which included the Miles government cabinet that met during Beef Week at the Rockhampton Showgrounds.