



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2024

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Beef Australia 2024**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.41 am): Thank you, Mr Speaker—

**Mr Boothman:** The fire ant's friend!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Theodore—

**Mr FURNER:** What a dropkick.

**Mr SPEAKER:**—you know what is going to happen. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr FURNER:** In just three days time, the greatest event in agriculture is coming to the beef capital of Australia—Rockhampton. I know every member on this side of the chamber is so excited to be there in just three days time. Beef Australia 2024 looks—

**Mrs Frecklington:** How many jets?

**Mr Bleijie:** How many jets is the government taking up there?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you, member for Kawana.

**Mr FURNER:** Why don't you listen? You might learn something.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Pick me up in Kingaroy.

**Mr FURNER:** I know your ears are painted on, but you might learn something for once.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister.

**Mr FURNER:** Beef Australia 2024 looks to surpass all previous records, with 100,000 expected to pass through the gates at the Rockhampton Showgrounds to see, touch and taste Queensland's best agricultural export beef. Queensland has 49 per cent of the Australian cattle herd and it is our most valuable export, at \$7.1 billion, and it is consumed in more than 60 countries around the world.

Beef Australia has promoted the industry since 1988 and the current chair, Bryce Camm, is a champion for the sector. His and his team's efforts in bringing the event together and persevering through COVID's Beef 2021 means that this year's event is extra special, and we will see a return of the international visitors. Throughout the week there will be exhibitors, eateries, events, the return of the Ken Coombe OAM Tech Yards and Innovation Hub and, most importantly, cattle on display. This will also be a celebration of the 200-year birthday for the Australian Agricultural Company, AACo, one of the leading beef businesses in the world, even though it started out with sheep.

The Miles government is a strong supporter when it comes to Beef Australia and to agriculture, with a cabinet meeting being held in Rockhampton during the week. Whether it is action on cost-of-living pressures or support for the agricultural sector, the Miles government is leading the herd. The latest Rabobank survey notes that the state's beef producers are leading this upturn in sentiment, with 85 per cent now expecting economic conditions to stay the same or improve in the year ahead.

Next week there is no greater place to 'steak-out' than in Rockhampton where the very best of Queensland's agriculture is on display to Australia and the world. With the announcement today of cost-of-living relief, I know that many Queenslanders, with that money in their pocket, can go to the butcher or supermarket and purchase some of the best steak in the world.