




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Beef Australia 2024

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.05 am): Beef 2024 was a huge, successful demonstration of the Queensland beef industry in the beef capital of the world, Rockhampton. I know that the member for Rockhampton was overwhelmed by the number of members from this side of the House who attended. I am advised that there were 119,324 gate movements over the course of the week, up from 115,866 three years ago. While the stakes were high, this event was a credit to the Beef Australia board chaired by Bryce Camm and CEO Simon Irwin. It was clear that a lot of effort was invested in ensuring that this was the place to be, whether you were a local, from industry or an international delegate.

Even for those not in attendance, Beef 2024 was international with more than 79,000 unique website views. Approximately 60 per cent of viewers tuned in from overseas. They may or may not have seen politicians of all stripes quizzed on the industry. The highlight reel is still online for those interested and it has some interesting viewing. The Queensland cabinet had onsite cabinet meetings as well as a visit from the Prime Minister. This was the first cabinet meeting at Beef Week, something for which we should be congratulated. This event takes pride of place on the Queensland schedule. It also highlights why we as a government have committed \$4.5 million to Beef 2027, doubling our effort from this year.

Beef 2024 also saw the announcement that, for the first time in 11 years, Queensland no longer has any shires drought declared. AACo celebrated its 200 years. There were informative guest speakers, celebrity chefs and the DAF stand there. All DAF staff who were there should be acknowledged as they fielded a range of questions. I know that the inquisitive kids who were there will look for jobs in that industry in the future.

Bryce, Simon, Mayor Tony Williams, the Rockhampton Regional Council, Cattle Australia, the beef industry and all those who assisted should be congratulated on such a successful event. I would also like to acknowledge Kirsten for her assistance in the logistics of the event.