



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2024

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Budget, Agriculture and Fisheries**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.09 am): Queensland's agriculture and fisheries sectors are renowned around the globe for growing the world's cleanest and most sustainable produce. There is no greater supporter or friend of the world-class agriculture and fisheries sectors than the new Miles government. The state budget handed down by the Treasurer yesterday invests almost \$715 million in Queensland's vital agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors—a record Labor agriculture budget. This investment will further strengthen this critical economic sector of production and employment which, according to the latest available AgTrends data, is worth \$23.4 billion annually to the Queensland economy.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr FURNER:** Just grow up, why don't you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, it would be helpful if you directed your comments through the chair. The members for Gregory and Gympie are both warned under the standing orders. Don't look so shocked, member for Gympie.

**Mr FURNER:** The budget recognises the importance of biosecurity by nearly doubling the number of FTE staff within biosecurity services from 626 to 1,314. They will assist our efforts in the fight against fire ants and help implement the stronger dangerous dog laws we have passed to protect Queenslanders. Another important budget feature is \$3.3 million in 2024-25 for round 7 of the Rural Economic Development Grants program, which enhances regional employment opportunities and stimulates agribusiness development in regional Queensland.

Other highlights in the agriculture and fisheries budget include: \$1.6 million to upgrade the wild dog barrier fence; \$1.4 million to upgrade infrastructure and equipment at Gatton Smart Farm to support horticulture, productivity and profitability; helping Queensland agribusiness to lower greenhouse gas emissions through the Queensland Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap 2022-32; continued support of smart farms dedicated to advancing Australia's agriculture and food industries through the AgTech Roadmap 2023-28; leading the Fresh and Secure Trade Alliance program to help protect and grow Australia's horticultural exports; helping Queensland producers prepare for future droughts; maintaining swimmer safety through our shark control program while advancing research into innovative shark mitigation technologies; and boosting community education efforts.

I am proud to be the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development in the new Miles government which supports Queensland's world-class agriculture and fisheries sectors, and this will continue under the Miles government.