



Speech By  
**Tony Perrett**

**MEMBER FOR GYMPIE**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2024

## **PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

### **Beef Week; Agriculture Industry, Exports**

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.25 pm): A record attendance of 119,324 helped make Beef Week an outstanding success. It was three per cent higher than the 115,866 in 2021. There were 35.5 tonnes of beef consumed and 1,600 head of prime cattle netted almost \$4 million. More than 3,800 students participated in the school program and another 1,200 also visited. Beef Week was a drawcard for 35 countries and more than 600 international delegates, and 60 per cent of the viewers of the newly launched Beef TV tuned in from overseas, with the biggest audiences coming from Indonesia, the Philippines and Venezuela.

I have attended Beef Week since 1991, and as a grazier I am immensely proud that it has grown into a major event on the calendar. The LNP has committed \$4.5 million to help cover costs to stage the next Beef Week in 2027. While the government copied our support of agriculture, it is disappointing that they refused to copy our support of agriculture. A conga line of Labor politicians turned up trying to cloak themselves in the success of an industry which they clearly despise. Many were role playing, donning akubras, thinking they would blend in. They were wolves in sheep's clothing. Just as the gates were closing, federal Labor banned the live sheep export trade. They were there knowing their antifarming agenda was about to decimate a livestock industry. It was a cowardly and duplicitous action.

Minister Furner was there with his federal colleague Senator Watts. There is no way he did not know. The National Farmers' Federation, Wool Producers Australia, Sheep Producers Australia, Cattle Australia, Australian Livestock Exporters' Council and AgForce were scathing about federal Labor's abandonment of the industry and called it a clear alignment of Labor with the antifarming activist bodies. Since that announcement, the minister has said nothing. Hypocrisy has no limits. The minister remains a central player in the Queensland Labor factional cheer squad which undermines livestock industries.

The deafening silence shows that nothing has changed from when the Gillard government smashed the live cattle export trade in 2011. The minister was a senator then and he stood by as his Queensland Labor senator and factional mate Joe Ludwig decimated the live cattle trade. It cost the beef industry billions. The Australian taxpayers owe billions from a class action. It was purely designed to appeal to animal welfare activists. That catastrophic decision sent many primary producers broke, some lost properties and, sadly, others contemplated suicide, and some are still recovering. The minister said nothing then and says nothing now. This is clearly the first nail in the coffin from Labor's agenda to totally stop any live exports from Australia.