



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
and Minister for Rural Communities

Tabled by: Chris Whiting
Time/date: 6:46pm 28 July
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Mr Chris Whiting MP
Chair, State Development and Regional Industries Committee
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Dear Mr Whiting

I refer to correspondence from Ms Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa, to you as Chair of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee on 22 July 2021. I trust that the below responses address Ms Bolton's questions, and I welcome the opportunity to further brief Ms Bolton on these issues if desired.

- 1. As part of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, the Department conducts Environmental Risk Assessments for target species. Could the Minister advise what funding has been made available to publish the results of these ERAs and to assist the establishment of localised programs to protect and enhance the fishery stocks?**

The Queensland Government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy represents a comprehensive move towards evidence-based fisheries management.

The 2021-22 Budget announcement includes an additional \$42.5 million over 4 years for the continued implementation of all aspects of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, including additional and ongoing funding for expanded fisheries biological, social and economic monitoring programs, increased compliance, and a shift to harvest strategy-based fisheries management.

Importantly, \$1.28 million of this funding has been allocated in 2021-22, and ongoing for the following three years, to maintain our investment in ecological risk assessments (ERAs) that are critical to understanding these complex data sets and in stock assessments that inform good fisheries management decisions through 13 new harvest strategies. The East Coast Inshore Fishery also has new Protected Species Management Strategies that outline strategies to minimise and mitigate high ecological risks on protected species arising from fishing-related activities.

To provide for better management outcomes at the local level, reforms commencing on 1 September 2021 will:

- divide the Crab Fishery into three new management regions
- divide the Trawl Fisheries into five new management regions
- divide the East Coast Inshore Fishery into five new management regions
- establish individual transferrable quotas (ITQ) for seven new species (barramundi, king threadfin, grey mackerel, school mackerel, whiting, mud crab, and blue swimmer crab) and assign the ITQ to the new management regions
- establish competitive Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) limits for seven new species (yellowfin bream, dusky flathead, sea mullet, spotted mackerel, tailor, shark/ray, and hammerhead shark) and assign the TACC to the new management regions.

All ERAs, stock assessments, harvest strategies, Protected Species Management Strategies, and information about ITQ and TACC, are published on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' website at www.daf.qld.gov.au.

2. What assistance is detailed in the budget to support businesses wishing to establish mobile abattoirs to ensure that local sustainable harvesting of meat can occur and negating the need for animals to be transported long distances to access conventional abattoir facilities which voids their 'ethical' status?

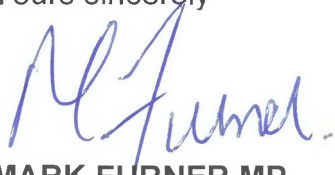
Queensland has stringent animal welfare requirements, and these apply from the farm to the point of slaughter. Each stage of the supply chain has an accreditation, code or standard to comply with in dealing with the welfare of transported animals. It is not in the interest of enterprises in any part of the meat supply chain, or in the retail sectors, for poor welfare to be tolerated in any way.

With respect to mobile abattoirs, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries supports proponents who wish to invest in mobile systems that can meet Queensland's welfare, environmental and food production standards.

All meat processing facilities within Queensland are regulated by Safe Food Production Queensland. An approval would be required through Safe Food Production Queensland prior to any mobile operation commencing.

If you require further information, please contact my office on 07 3719 7420.

Yours sincerely



MARK FURNER MP
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