



Speech by

**Hon. HENRY PALASZCZUK**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Hansard 30 October 2002

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Fishing Reforms**

**Hon. H. PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (9.59 a.m.), by leave: In recent months the government has detailed wide-ranging reforms in fisheries management in Queensland. These reforms are contained in three regulatory impact statements that have been released for public comment. Public comment has now closed for the general marine and freshwater fishing reforms, while submissions to the draft management arrangements for coral reef fin fishery are due by 16 December. The government intends to have the freshwater and general marine reforms in place by Christmas.

The Queensland Fisheries Service is currently analysing the almost 2,000 submissions to both of these regulatory impact statements. In terms of the proposed coral reef fin fishery changes, the government is currently holding a series of information meetings. Sessions have been already held in Townsville, Ingham, Innisfail, Cairns, Ayr and Bowen. A meeting will be held in Mackay today and in Airlie Beach tomorrow. Further meetings will be held in Rockhampton, Gladstone, Bundaberg, and Hervey Bay early next month.

As a government we are committed to consultation and getting the balance in fisheries management right. Our aim is the future sustainability of our fisheries, and this must be the shared commitment of all stakeholders and the wider community. We must ensure that the one that gets away is due to bad luck and not bad management.

While I am discussing fisheries management, I would like to remind all fishers that the closed season for barramundi starts on Friday. Under the existing regulation, anglers are not permitted to take barramundi along the east coast for the next three months from midday 1 November under a closed season for spawning of this most prized fish. The closure applies to all commercial and recreational fishers, and any person found taking barramundi during the closed season faces a fine. The east coast closure for barramundi ends at noon on 1 February. The only exceptions along the east coast from the annual closure are Lake Tinaroo on the Atherton Tableland and Awoonga Dam at Gladstone.

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