



Speech by

Hon. HENRY PALASZCZUK

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard 5 December 2002

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
Fisheries Management Reform

Hon. H. PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (10.20 a.m.): Following on from the Premier's statement this morning, I would like to explain the further fisheries management reform he referred to. These reforms deal with the other popular fish species such as flathead, snapper, pearl perch and teraglin jew. A uniform recreational bag limit of five for these species will be implemented.

Prior to now there was no bag limit for flathead. The bag limit for snapper was 30 fish and the bag limit for both pearl perch and teraglin jew was 10. In terms of minimum size limits for these species, flathead will be increased from 30 centimetres to 40 centimetres, while snapper and pearl perch will be increased from 30 centimetres to 35 centimetres as proposed. However, the government has agreed with those public submissions for the maximum size for flathead to be 70 centimetres rather than 60 centimetres as proposed.

The overriding aim of fisheries management is sustainability. Fisheries are a community resource and we have informed the community and sought their views on these reforms. As minister, my priority is to ensure that the stories about the one that gets away are due more to bad luck than to bad management.

I expect to announce further fisheries reforms under the proposed general marine and freshwater fisheries regulatory impact statement before Christmas. Fisheries management in Queensland is light years ahead of where it was 10 years ago, let alone four and a half years ago.