




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Sustainable Fisheries Strategy

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy is about guaranteeing jobs and ensuring a sustainable fishery for our children and grandchildren into the future. Yesterday was a milestone in the delivery of the strategy. The strategy is about ensuring the sector continues to: keep employing people; allow commercial, recreational, charter and traditional fishers to keep on taking fish; and support sustainable supplies of fresh fish to Queensland and the world. Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19 only makes these outcomes more important.

Thousands of fishers and Queenslanders made submissions to the 2014 MRAG review and the 2016 green paper, and the release of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy in 2017 was the Palaszczuk government's response. The overwhelming message was that stakeholders wanted reform in the way fisheries are managed. Consulting and engaging with Queenslanders has been the hallmark of this government. All 33 actions in the strategy are on track to be delivered by 2027 and we should have no overfished stocks by then. The reforms that commenced yesterday are a big step towards that.

From 1 September, 13 new fishery harvest strategies commenced. Crab, trawl and east coast inshore fisheries are divided into new management regions. In those fisheries new quota units are created so the catch of priority species can be controlled directly. Commercial catch limits are reviewed and set, and bycatch and protected species interactions must be better managed. Just like we have kept Queenslanders safe, we will protect our fisheries so they are sustainable for our children and grandchildren, because Queensland's COVID-19 economic recovery plan relies on a strong, sustainable fishing industry.