

**Question on Notice
No. 1131
Asked on 29 September 2004**

QUESTION:

MR FRASER asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (Ms Boyle)—

Will she update the House on the Sandy Straits Marine Park?

ANSWER:

The Strategy for the declaration and zoning of the proposed Great Sandy Marine Park – Northern Section, which includes a draft zoning plan, and a Regulatory Impact Statement and draft Public Benefits Test is nearing completion. During its preparation, consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders and State Government agencies.

The previous Environment Minister, the Honourable John Mickel, met with key stakeholders to ensure that their issues and preferred zoning and management of the marine park were considered. These key stakeholders included:

- The Queensland Seafood Industry Association and seafood processors representing commercial fishing;
- The Fraser Coast Sunfish representing recreational fishers;
- Tourism representatives including whale watching, charter fishing and the regional tourism board; and
- Green groups were consulted as members of the Working Group.

I support the outcomes from these discussions as reflected in the Strategy. I want to make it clear that the draft zoning plan has been developed with an awareness of the important economic contribution of the fishing industry to this region.

I am currently reviewing the draft Strategy, Regulatory Impact Statement and Public Benefits Test and will make recommendations on public consultation in due course.