

Question on Notice

No. 913

Asked on 19 August 2004

MISS SIMPSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

When will the new electronic maps used with GPS navigation be made available?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for her question.

Electronic maps used with GPS navigation are easily available to the public from a range of commercial companies.

I presume, therefore, that the honourable member's question is really about the timing of when Maritime Safety Queensland will release its boating safety chart data to the electronic charting companies.

Before releasing this data, certain steps have been taken to ensure that it will be reproduced accurately and therefore preserve the trust boaties have in MSQ's charts – not just on paper but also when used with electronic equipment.

Maritime Safety Queensland is currently finalising a standard licence agreement with interested electronic charting companies (and there are around six of them) to enable these companies to use MSQ boating chart data in their commercial products.

Companies that wish to incorporate Maritime Safety Queensland data in their commercial software products and can meet the standard licence requirements are likely to have licences executed by mid to late September 2004.

The standard licence is being offered to all interested companies on an equitable, commercially competitive basis and has been based upon similar licence agreements used by the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments - which took two years to negotiate to conclusion.

Maritime Safety Queensland has expanded the base licence to cover maritime safety issues such as warning statements on the correct use of the chart data with on-board electronic equipment.

MSQ is actively working to address all concerns raised to ensure safety of navigation in Queensland waters while reinforcing the message that electronic charts are an aid to navigation only and a proper watch must be kept at all times.