

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1485

Asked on Wednesday, 29 November 2006

MRS SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

QUESTION:

- (1) What do the extensions to the Bribie Island Aquaculture Centre mean for the centre and local economy?
- (2) How many extra staff will be employed to cater for this growth?

ANSWER:

- (1) Queensland's fisheries and aquaculture industries are worth \$360 million and provide many jobs and opportunities for Queenslanders. Much of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries' (DPI&F) aquaculture research is undertaken in the world class facilities at the Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Centre. Fisheries research and assessment in southern Queensland is undertaken at much older facilities at the Southern Fisheries Centre at Deception Bay.

By extending and redeveloping the Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Centre at a cost of approximately \$4 million, commercial-scale production and grow out facilities will enable multi-discipline research teams to conduct research that has a direct industry-wide application. These new integrated facilities will also encourage collaboration with local, interstate and international universities and scientific institutions.

- (2) DPI&F intends to re-locate 10 existing Deception Bay positions to Bribie Island to utilise these more modern facilities, and staff have been included in the consultation process. This move will not only provide better facilities for fisheries researchers but will co-locate fisheries research staff who need fish keeping facilities and aquaculture research staff together. This more efficient use of high cost infrastructure will result in increased collaboration and cross industry linkages between aquaculture, inland, estuarine and open water fisheries.