

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 532**  
**Asked on Wednesday, 19 April 2006**

**MR HOOLIHAN** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

How will the recent appointment of additional Boating and Fisheries Patrol Officers benefit Queensland's fishing communities including those in Yeppoon in the electorate of Keppel?

**ANSWER:**

Ten officers of the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol graduated as Inspectors on 7 April 2006. These officers successfully completed the Patrol's 14 week training course over a period of six months. The course includes intensive training in activities such as safe operation of 4 wheel drive vehicles, vessel handling, navigation, surveillance techniques and investigations. The course is recognised as the best of its type in Australia.

Essentially these Inspectors have been trained and appointed throughout the State to replace existing officers who have either retired or resigned from the Patrol.

These new Inspectors will be involved in outdoor compliance duties, such as educating the community and undertaking enforcement activities, as well as paper-based auditing activities.

The breadth of their enforcement activities is demonstrated by the fact that the Inspectors are authorised to act under the following legislation:

- Fisheries Act 1994;
- Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994;
- Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995;
- Marine Park Act 1982;
- Nature Conservation Act 1992;
- Fisheries Management Act 1991 (C'wlth);
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 (C'wlth); and
- Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984.

These Inspectors will also play an important role in educating the community on fisheries and boating laws. This commitment to interaction with the community indicates that the government is active in all facets of managing and protecting the State's fisheries resources.

The appointment of an additional Inspector in Yeppoon will enhance the day to day activities of the Patrol in the area of the Keppel electorate. There are now five officers stationed at the Patrol's new office at Rosslyn Bay, so that office is now also operating at its full capacity.