

Question on Notice

No. 682

Asked on 10 May 2006

MRS SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

How effective has the new jet ski legislation been in waterways, such as the Pumicestone Passage and Moreton Bay?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for her question-

I am pleased to inform the Honourable Member that Maritime Safety Queensland and its compliance partners, the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and the Water Police, have been committed to educating the boating community about the new legislation relating to personal watercraft, commonly known as jet skis, since its commencement in July 2005.

Since that time, shipping inspectors in Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast have inspected more than 16,300 recreational boats, including jet skis, and issued more than 2700 marine infringement notices.

Maritime Safety Queensland has continued its Field Compliance Team of three marine inspectors who perform duties dedicated to jet ski compliance activities. Since January last year, they have patrolled known hot spots on the Sunshine Coast, around Brisbane and the Gold Coast, and have inspected 826 jet skis and issued 111 marine infringement notices. They have also made over 2000 educational contacts to inform people of the new requirements.

As the Honourable Member knows, the government implemented the Jet Ski Management Plan last year, which outlined a new category of licence for the operators jet skis in addition to the recreational marine driver licence. People who intend to operate jet skis must now complete a BoatSafe training course that specifically deals with jet skis before they can obtain their PWC licence. Since July 2005, Queensland Transport has issued over 37,700 new PWC licences.

Maritime Safety Queensland will continue to dedicate resources for the education and enforcement of marine safety laws relating to jet skis.

I thank the Honourable Member for her continued interest in marine safety in Queensland.