

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 264
Asked on Tuesday, 6 March 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Burns Inquiry into Recreational Fishing in 1994 and, in particular, to the levy on outboard motor boat licences to buy back commercial licences—

- (1) How much money has been raised by the scheme, itemised per year?
- (2) How many commercial licences have been purchased since the scheme was put in place, itemised per year and the value of licence?

ANSWER:

The 1994 Burns Inquiry into Recreational Fishing was undertaken in recognition of the need to develop a long term strategy for the management of recreational fishing in Queensland. The Burns Inquiry identified that additional funding for fisheries management would be required to implement many of its recommendations. The Inquiry recommended a range of measures to raise funds including imposing an additional amount on registration fees for pleasure craft used for fishing purposes. Buying back commercial licences was not one of the recommendations.

Since 1994-95, the recreational sector has made financial contributions to fisheries management through the Private Pleasure Vessel (PPV) levy raising on average \$1.7 million per year. The PPV levy enhances substantial government funding to deliver on management, research and compliance to the recreational fishing sector. This will ensure the sustainability of the resource for current and future generations. A range of projects and programs in the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries have been designed to improve recreational fishing opportunities throughout Queensland, including:

- fish stocking projects in coastal and inland waters;
- the establishment of recreational fishing areas;
- improved research and monitoring of fish stocks;
- upgraded surveillance and response by the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol to catch people fishing illegally;
- improved pollution control, habitat protection and the establishment of new reserves; and
- establishment of a community fishcare program and new management methods to ensure sustainable fishing.