

**Question on Notice
No. 1733
Asked on Wednesday 12 November 2008**

QUESTION:

MR SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) —

With reference to submissions received in response to the draft Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan —

- (1) What were the opening and closing dates for submissions?
- (2) How many submissions were accepted after the close-off date and what was the reason for their acceptance?
- (3) How many submissions were from interstate or overseas?
- (4) How many were e-petitions and what organisations initiated these?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southern Downs for his questions regarding the consultation undertaken and submissions received for the draft zoning plan for Moreton Bay Marine Park.

- (1) The draft zoning plan for Moreton Bay Marine Park was launched on 2 December 2007. The public consultation period ran for approximately three months and submissions closed on 7 March 2008.

Consultation activities on the draft zoning plan included a mailout to over 2,000 interested parties; production of 17 information sheets; display posters; face to face meetings; and six community display days were conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- (2) A number of submissions were received after the closing date but, with the exception of submissions from South East Queensland (SEQ) Councils, were not accepted for analysis and were not included in the final tally. Submissions received after the closing date were placed on file but did not form part of the analysis.

The extension for SEQ Councils was provided in recognition that Councils were undergoing major reforms and were not likely to have the ability to provide a comprehensive submission. Councils were specifically contacted stating that if Councils submitted a preliminary submission by the closing date, a completed submission would be accepted by 30 April 2008.

- (3) Of over 8,000 submissions received during the consultation period, approximately 1,200 were received from interstate or overseas. Submissions were received from interested persons from each state and territory in mainland Australia as well as from countries, such as Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada and New Zealand.
- (4) A number of paper petitions were received during the consultation period. Only one e-petition was tabled in Parliament during the consultation period. The petition was titled 'Unacceptable Impact on the Community of EPA's proposed Moreton Bay Zoning changes' and received 503 signatures.

Mr Grant Bennett initiated this e-petition which was sponsored by Mr Phil Weightman MP, Member for Cleveland. Mr Bennett is a member of the Moreton Bay Access Alliance and was a member of the Stakeholder Reference Group for the draft zoning plan.

Another identical e-petition was initiated by Mr Bennett and sponsored by the Member for Cleveland after the consultation period closed. This e-petition received 46 signatures.

A number of petitions and submissions were addressed to me as Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation after the close of the formal submission period and before the final plan was announced. These documents were not taken as formal submissions on the Draft Plan.

The material received is as follows:

- 2,660 form letters prepared by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland and signed by various citizens of Queensland, other Australian States and other countries. The form letter makes reference to the need to provide a higher level of protection to dolphins, dugong and turtles and calls for the level of protection in Green Zones to be raised to 30 percent;
- A petition prepared by John English, Member for Redlands and signed by approximately 750 petitioners calling for Point Talburpin to be kept open for recreational fishing;
- A petition prepared by John English, Member for Redlands and signed by approximately 800 petitioners calling for Point Halloran to be kept open for Recreational fishing and bait gathering;
- A petition prepared by Peta-Kaye Croft, Member for Broadwater and signed by approximately 1,006 petitioners calling for the upper reaches of Coombabah Creek to be kept open for recreational fishing; and

- A petition prepared by Carryn Sullivan, Member for Pumicestone signed by approximately 280 petitioners calling for the Green Zone (MNP 02) in the Draft Plan to be changed to allow recreational fishing between Thooloora Island and Bribie Island and the “one line one hook” provision in the Draft Plan not to be implemented in Pumicestone Passage.