

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 344
Asked on Wednesday, 12 March 2008

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

QUESTION:

As I understand a \$100,000 investment in tagging and monitoring of stocked fish has been announced—

How will this benefit recreational fishers?

ANSWER:

In August 2006, the Queensland Government announced a policy statement titled "Living the Queensland Lifestyle". The policy outlined funding initiatives for a range of recreational activities, including fishing.

In total the Government committed \$1.65 million over three years to increase participation and enjoyment of recreational fishing in Queensland. This funding initiative is already delivering programs such as free kids fishing clinics, expansion of freshwater fish stocking, fish hatchery development and new research on popular angling species such as the jungle perch.

In addition to these programs, \$100,000 has been allocated to improve fish tagging studies and monitoring of stocked fish populations in Queensland. Part of this funding has been allocated to provide free tags and fish tagging equipment to community fish stocking groups across the State. The funds will also be used to manage and analyse data arising from these tagging programs and provide support to local groups with interpreting the results.

Tags and tagging equipment will be distributed free of charge to community groups who have already established a fish tagging program or wish to learn more about their local stocked fishery.

By tagging fish stocked into local waterways, the community groups will be able to better understand the outcomes of their stocking programs.

For example, results of the tagging programs will provide information on the growth, movements and survival of stocked fish. Results such as these will then be analysed independently and provided to local stocking groups in the form of a series of reports.

The information will be used by Fisheries officers and the local groups to inform decisions about future fish stocking strategies.

By participating in these monitoring programs, regional stocking groups will be better able to understand and manage stocked fisheries in their local area. This will improve the ability of the community groups to assist Fisheries with responsible management of stocked fisheries in regional areas of Queensland.

Results will also be exchanged with commercial fish hatchery operators, allowing them to refine hatchery techniques and protocols.

This program demonstrates the Queensland Government's commitment to enhancing local business and tourism opportunities through developing recreational fishing opportunities in regional Queensland.

The Government will continue to cooperate with local stocking groups, tourism authorities and hatchery operators to further develop these opportunities. The end result of programs such as this will be more cost-effective and sustainable stocked fisheries in Queensland for local communities and visiting anglers to enjoy.