

Question on Notice

No. 221

Asked on 10 March 2011

MR LAWLOR asked the Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure (MR WALLACE) -

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail how Southport constituents can have a say on the review of snapper fisheries?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southport for the question.

The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation has released a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) proposing new management arrangements for the fishery aimed at rebuilding the snapper stock over a 10 year period. The consultation period was extended to 8 April 2011 following the recent flooding events in Queensland.

The RIS outlines four options to rebuild the snapper stock over a 10 year period. I can advise that the Queensland Government has decided to remove the proposal to charge a fee for a recreational snapper permit. Consultation about the rest of the proposals presented in the RIS will continue until 8 April 2011.

While there are four options proposed in the RIS, there are no preferred options. A final agreement on the snapper fishery could be a combination of the remaining proposals in the RIS or it could be something entirely different. Like many in the community the government wants a plan for the sustainable management of snapper but it must be acceptable to the fishing community.

As Fisheries Minister, I have taken a hands-on approach and will personally oversee consultation on the RIS. I have held a series of meetings with recreational, charter and commercial fishers to ensure the views of the fishing community have been heard at the highest level of government.