

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 107

asked on Wednesday, 6 March 2013

MR STEVENS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise whether a ban on cultural killing of endangered dugongs will be put in place in Queensland?

ANSWER:

Indigenous people in Queensland have a right to take native animals as part of native title provisions under state and federal legislation and there is no intention to interfere with that.

The Queensland Government is actively working with Indigenous communities across the state to engage them in the sustainable management of turtles, dugongs and other marine animals.

A cooperative project involving the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, the Department of National Parks Recreation Sport and Racing, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, Girringun Aboriginal Corporation and the Australian Government Department of Sustainability Environment Water Population and Communities is providing training and capacity building to sea country communities to support enhanced monitoring and compliance activity and to implement appropriate hunting practices.

This cooperative approach is developing a regime of self regulation which will be applied through localised hunting permits, managed by respective communities, which will ensure sustainable populations of dugongs and other marine species.