

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 1690**

**Asked on 15 September 2016**

**MR KING** asked the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to community concerns regarding fisheries management, including local concerns about the use of gill nets—

Will the Minister update the House on what consultation is being conducted to gauge feedback from Queenslanders on fisheries management?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for the question.

The Government is committed to ensuring Queensland's fisheries resources are managed in a sustainable and responsible manner. However the need for change is clear. In recent years the pressure on our fisheries resources has increased.

Conflict and competition between users is increasing with no clear process to resolve issues. There is also wider community concerns about the sustainability of some fishing practices including the use of gill nets.

The Green Paper on fisheries management reform, which I released for public comment in July 2016, puts forward a possible framework to manage our wild harvest fisheries into the future.

The purpose of the Green Paper is to promote community discussion on the future management of Queensland's wild harvest fisheries — and it has done just that.

People across all sectors are providing valuable feedback on the Government's ten areas of fisheries management reform. There have been over 4 000 responses to the paper including 700 online surveys, 30 written submissions and over 3 300 form emails. Officers from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries have also met with over 200 individuals who registered their interest in discussing the Green Paper reforms. This included commercial fishers, recreational fishers and local community groups.

Based on the representations I have received from the Member for Kallangur and other Members of Parliament, and the ongoing level of interest and community feedback on the Green Paper, I have extended the public comment period for another two weeks to give people more time to have their say on how fisheries should be managed into the future. The public comment period now closes on 14 October 2016.

Through the Green Paper, this Government is genuinely seeking the community's feedback on the future management of our fisheries resources.

I encourage all Queenslanders to have their say on the future of fisheries management in Queensland.