

Question on Notice

No. 1190

Asked on 18 September 2018

MS K RICHARDS ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise of tools or opportunities for local fishers to engage with Queensland Fisheries and stay informed about any changes in their local area?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Improved engagement is one of the ten reform areas outlined in the *Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027*, released in June of last year. Effective engagement with stakeholders is fundamental in the successful implementation of fishery reforms.

There are a number of ways that fishery stakeholders can engage with Fisheries Queensland to stay informed and have their say in the reform process, such as through fishery working groups.

These working groups encourage a greater stakeholder role in providing advice on management options, and on returning information and updates back to local fishing communities and organisations. Over the past twelve months, over twenty working group meetings have been held, with public communiqués published to distribute this information across wider communities of fisheries' stakeholders.

Working groups are not the only way to remain involved. Fisheries Queensland has been travelling the state holding regional face-to-face meetings to discuss fishery reforms. Last financial year, over 620 stakeholders were engaged in this consultation, from all regions and sectors.

We have also been investigating more novel engagement techniques to gather views and share information with stakeholders and the broader community. This includes online polls and educational videos, as well as social media posts.

The best way for fishers to stay up-to-date with fisheries reforms is to follow Fisheries Queensland on social media or sign up to Catch News, a seasonal newsletter on recreational and commercial fishing, and aquaculture in Queensland. More information can be found on the Departmental of Agriculture and Fisheries' website: www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries