

Question on Notice

No. 1256

Asked on 19 September 2018

MR S ANDREW ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the previous situation whereby holders of Stocked Impoundment licences could allocate where their money was spent on the location of fish stocks—

Will the Minister advise why this has been revoked from licence holders and what process is now being used to determine stock locations?

ANSWER:

In 2016, the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme (the Scheme) was expanded from 32 dams to 63 dams and weirs following a review of freshwater fisheries management. At the same time, the Scheme's paper based permitting system was upgraded to an electronic based system operated by Australia Post.

The electronic system was introduced to improve service delivery by reducing the amount of time taken to apply for a permit.

These changes followed an extensive consultation process.

In recent years, the Scheme has generated over \$1 million a year in revenue from permit sales, with at least 75 per cent of all revenue going directly to community-based volunteer stocking groups for maintaining and improving freshwater fisheries.

These volunteer groups are allocated funds in line with recommendations from the Scheme's Working Group, which includes representatives from fish stocking groups throughout Queensland and the Freshwater Fishing and Stocking Association of Queensland.

In 2018, the Working Group recommended a change to the allocation of these funds. Accordingly, 50 per cent of funds are now allocated based on where permit holders fish, while the remainder is allocated based on the size of the stocked impoundment.