

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1375**

**Asked on 17 October 2018**

**MR C WHITING** ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise what action the Palaszczuk Government is taking to improve access to recreational fishing in inland areas?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for the question.

Recreational fishing is an iconic Queensland pastime, whether in Moreton Bay in the Member's electorate or water systems further inland.

The Palaszczuk Government has invested in providing better access to river systems for recreational fishers. As part of this investment, the Government has provided \$100 000 each to the Rockhampton, Mackay and Cairns councils, which they matched, to improve recreational fishing opportunities around the Net Free Zones, including the development of new land-based fishing platforms.

In freshwater areas of the state, the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme (SIPS) has been developed to ensure freshwater recreational fishing opportunities throughout 63 dams and weirs across the state. In recent years, SIPS has generated over \$1,000,000 a year in revenue with at least 75 per cent of all revenue going directly to community-based volunteer stocking groups for maintaining and improving these fisheries. Fish stocking is a key part of SIPS which provides recreational fishing opportunities in areas where they would otherwise be lacking, supporting regional communities and economies.

On 3 and 4 November 2018, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, in partnership with the Freshwater Fish Stocking Association of Queensland, held a stocking workshop to discuss possible improvements to SIPS including participation, monitoring and management. It is intended that this will inform a review of Queensland's stocking policy and stocking management plans to ensure that SIPS are world class fisheries based on best management practice and improve access.

More information on the SIPS locations, including an interactive list of locations, is available online at <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/rsa/sips-dams-and-weirs>.