

Question on Notice

No. 1376

Asked on 17 October 2018

MR D PEGG ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what steps the Palaszczuk Government is taking to make Queensland the aquaculture capital of the world?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government supports a sustainable aquaculture industry and is committed to promoting Queensland's aquaculture to the world. Queensland boasts a number of competitive advantages for aquaculture, whether it be for the purpose of starting a business, research or trade.

The Queensland Aquaculture Policy Statement articulates the Government's vision, initiatives and support for aquaculture development in Queensland. This statement complements the Government's response to the 2016 Queensland Competition Authority's Final Report on Aquaculture Regulation in Queensland.

The response supported a number of the report's recommendations aimed at facilitating the expansion of aquaculture in Queensland. This included the identification of aquaculture development areas suitable for land-based marine aquaculture operations. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is currently finalising the mapping which will identify the areas most suitable for development and with the least number of technical and environmental constraints.

While potential aquaculture development areas are being identified, it does not prohibit investors exploring other areas for aquaculture development in Queensland. An Aquaculture Industry Development Network has been established to facilitate private sector interactions with government about aquaculture development.

The Palaszczuk Government has also announced a plan to turn rundown buildings on Bribie Island into an innovative world-leading aquaculture hub. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will run an open, public process seeking expressions of interest from interested parties to use the land for aquaculture and related purposes, once all relevant approvals have been obtained.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to creating greater certainty for industry and promoting the future growth of the Queensland aquaculture industry, which was worth around \$120 million in 2016-17, employs approximately 534 full-time staff and accounts for 40% of Queensland's total fisheries production.