

Question on Notice

No. 1485

Asked on 30 October 2018

MR J MADDEN ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on Queensland's fisheries working groups and the role they are playing within the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

We are now more than 12 months into the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy (the Strategy), which is paving the way for Queensland to have a world-class fisheries management system.

Improving engagement with stakeholders is a key reform area. This includes establishment of stakeholder based fishery working groups and a Sustainable Fisheries Expert Panel to provide advice to the Government on fisheries management issues and implementation of the Strategy.

Eleven working groups have been established to progress management reforms, undertake reviews of fishing rules and develop harvest strategies. This includes working through the reform of the priority fisheries including East Coast Inshore, East Coast Trawl and Crab.

All working groups are established following an expression of interest process and include commercial, recreational, charter, conservation, science and other interested community members with an interest in the future management of our fisheries resources.

Since June 2017, there have been more than 25 working group meetings. Their input and advice is very valuable in working out how best to manage our fisheries and develop harvest strategies. Importantly, communiqués are issued after each meeting for transparency and to ensure other stakeholders are aware of the advice being provided by the working groups.

Being a working group member is not the only way to get involved. Consistent with good regulatory practice and our Government's commitment to consultation, there will be opportunities for all stakeholders to have their say as we progress the reform of our fisheries.

I would like to thank our working group members for their time and contributions to date and their willingness to work in a spirit of cooperation and compromise with different stakeholders.