

Question on Notice

No. 899

Asked on Tuesday 21 August 2018

MS F SIMPSON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) how many complaints have been lodged in the last four years in the Mooloolah River regarding (i) abandoned boats and (ii) boats that have slipped their moorings and (b) what remedial action was taken for each of these incidents?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for the question.

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) within the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is responsible for addressing drifting and abandoned vessels in the Mooloolah River. All reports are investigated either directly by MSQ or by our compliance partners, the Queensland Water Police and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol.

In the past four years there have been eight incidents in the Mooloolah River where drifting, abandoned or sunken vessels have resulted in direct action being taken by MSQ.

Of these eight, four vessels were subsequently identified as abandoned. Three vessels were seized and destroyed at cost to TMR. One was subsequently reclaimed by the owner.

Three vessels, including two subsequently identified to be abandoned, were identified as drifting vessels. This includes vessels where the anchor was dragging. In two cases the vessels were seized and destroyed by MSQ. In the third case, MSQ worked with the owner to find a more suitable mooring location.

In most reports, once the vessel's owner is identified and, if it has slipped its moorings, MSQ works with the owner to immediately rectify the situation. There have also been several occasions where compliance action has been taken for vessels not appropriately moored.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring Queensland's waterways are safe and free of derelict vessels which pose a hazard to navigation, and to the environment.

A \$20 million fighting fund has been established to fund the removal of derelict ships, and a taskforce created to identify best practice in ensuring that all parties involved in a vessel's lifecycle meet their obligations from the time a vessel is first launched until its ultimate disposal.