

## Question on Notice

No. 933

Asked on 21 August 2018

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to the department's proposed vessel tracking of commercial fishing operators— Will the Minister advise (a) what measures will be put in place to compensate and minimise the financial and practical implications for Queensland commercial fishing operators due to the State Government's vessel tracking, (b) are grants or compensation measures being considered and (c) what assurances can the Minister give that commercial fishing operators' intellectual property will be protected as the vessel tracking is rolled out?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

In June 2017, the Palaszczuk Government released the *Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017 – 2027*. This Strategy paves the way for a world class fisheries management system. The Strategy commits to delivering a number of actions including the introduction of vessel tracking on all commercial fishing boats by 2020 with a priority for net, line and crab fisheries by the end of 2018.

The use of modern technologies like vessel tracking will help ensure the sustainability of Queensland's fisheries. It will lead to more informed and responsive management, which will benefit the marine resources upon which many operators and regional communities are dependent.

The Queensland Government has partnered with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to make available up to \$3 million to assist in the implementation of vessel tracking.

All commercial fishing boat, harvest fishery and charter fishery licence holders will be able to apply for the rebate which will be available upon application from 30 August 2018 to 31 December 2020. All approved units purchased from 1 June 2018 will be eligible as long as they meet the rebate eligibility criteria.

Fishers may be eligible for reimbursement for up to seven units depending on their licences and fishery symbols.

For example, reimbursements of up to \$300 will be available for category 'A' units like Spot Trace and YB3i, while reimbursements of up to \$750 will be available for category 'B' units like Skywave.

Reimbursements of up to \$220 will also be available to help with installation costs.

The rebate scheme will be administered by Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA).

The department respects the privacy of commercial fishers' data and treats this information as confidential. Individual information collected is used for internal fisheries management purposes and is shared only with the compliance partners (such as marine parks administrators) under strict conditions.

To give additional confidence that data will be protected, the department has engaged Price Waterhouse Coopers to audit safeguards that are in place.