

Question on Notice

No. 991

Asked on 23 August 2018

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) the purpose of the Charter Fishing Action Plan and (b) when it will be released and implemented?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government's Charter Fishing Action Plan 2018-2021 was released on 30 August 2018. The Action Plan aims to grow tourism and jobs through a world-class charter fishing industry.

The Action Plan recognises charter fishing as a distinct fishing activity with social and economic benefits for Queensland.

It is the first plan to bring the charter fishing industry together, support the sector and set out to grow its tourism benefits, particularly in regional Queensland.

There are currently 344 licenced charter operators providing guided fishing experiences in Queensland waters from the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area to the rocky reefs of South East Queensland.

Local, Australian and international clients are drawn to charter fishing in Queensland waters for different reasons – to catch a fish to eat, to experience the wilderness and to catch and release a fish.

The new Charter Fishing Action Plan for Queensland sets targets across four priority areas to be achieved by 2021.

The priority areas aim to:

- recognise the charter fishing sector
- improve engagement and consultation
- enhance industry standards and streamline requirements
- develop the regional tourism potential of charter fishing.

The Palaszczuk Government's vision to grow charter fishing is aligned with the *Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027* which is the largest reform of fisheries management in Queensland's history.

Reforms are underway to ensure sustainable fisheries for future generations and healthy fish stocks will underpin the creation of jobs in charter fishing.

The Charter Fishing Action Plan was developed in consultation with industry through a public discussion paper released in June 2017.