

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1313**

**Asked on 4 September 2019**

**MR S ANDREW ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—**

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise what measures are in place to avoid aquaculture projects in flood-prone locations presenting (a) cross-contamination risks with native species and (b) financial liabilities requiring public funds to support reconstruction or de-commissioning of damaged aquaculture facilities?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government supports the development and growth of an ecologically sustainable, diverse and innovative aquaculture industry which, in 2017-18, was worth around \$114 million and employed approximately 524 full-time staff.

In the majority of instances, local governments are usually the assessment manager for aquaculture operations. In these circumstances, local governments assess and impose conditions for the reconstruction or de-commissioning of aquaculture facilities. In addition to this, the State also assesses aquaculture development against the State Development Assessment Provisions that outline the State's assessment benchmarks that development must meet.

The State Development Assessment Provisions include a State code for aquaculture that requires aquaculture infrastructure to be designed, constructed and operated to ensure immunity from flooding and inundation. This includes a requirement for all ponds, tanks and containers used to grow fisheries resources to be constructed above either the Q100 flood level or the highest known flood level. Additionally, the location of aquaculture development should avoid any high velocity flood prone areas. These locational requirements minimise the risk of aquaculture facilities being flooded and assist to ensure cross-contamination with native species is avoided.

Aquaculture facilities may also require an Environmental Authority from the Department of Environment and Science. These authorities set out the parameters under which the facility must operate and establish thresholds such as areas of operation, maximum discharge levels and monitoring and reporting requirements.