

Question on Notice

No. 1718

Asked on 23 October 2019

MR B SAUNDERS ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline what work is being done to clean up crab pots in the Wide Bay region?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) continues to be actively involved in cleaning up lost and discarded crab pots across Queensland.

QBFP officers stationed in the Wide Bay region targeted waterways within the region with reportedly high numbers of derelict, abandoned and unmarked apparatus during September and October.

102 crab apparatus were recovered with 16 recovered in Round Hill Creek (1770), 14 in Eli Creek, 25 in Oreagans Creek, 28 in Beelbi Creek, seven in March Creek Marsh and 12 in the Burrum River.

Officers stationed in Hervey Bay teamed with Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers over two days along the southern Burrum Coast.

A QBFP drone was used effectively in identifying unmarked and sunken crab apparatus.

This clean up is part of a statewide initiative implemented by the QBFP.

Officers stationed immediately north of the Wide Bay region were also actively recovering pots during this time with 10 recovered in Corio Bay, 12 from Corrooman Creek, 14 from the Boyne River and four from Grahams Creek.

QBFP officers stationed in Central Queensland have recovered a total of 498 pieces of abandoned/derelict/unmarked apparatus since 1 January 2019 (including nets and freshwater apparatus).

The Government has recently sought views from the community concerning a proposal to prohibit light weight crab pots which are easily lost in the environment and pose a risk to other animals like turtles.