

Question on Notice

No. 357

Asked on 27 March 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)—

Will the Minister advise (a) the number of YB3i units which have been ordered and installed, (b) the average waiting time for fishers between time ordered, received and installed YB3i from Option Audio, (c) why YB3i and Option Audio have been removed from the Business Queensland's VMS information page as an authorised supplier and (d) whether Option Audio are still contracted by the department as an authorised supplier of VMS trackers in Queensland?

ANSWER:

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

Rebates are now available to assist industry in covering the purchase and installation costs of vessel tracking units. The rebate scheme has been designed so that the majority of fishers should not be out of pocket for the unit purchase or installation costs.

- a) Approximately 900 YB3i units have been purchased over the last 5 months.
- b) The majority of fishers have now received their units; had them installed; and they are operational. Approximately 50 units are on back-order, awaiting shipment from the overseas manufacturer. These fishers have been advised they can still go fishing while waiting for the units to arrive.
- c) The YB3i unit is approved for use in Queensland, and Option Audio is an approved provider of the unit as stated in the Vessel Tracking Installation and Maintenance Standard on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' website. Polestar has recently been approved as an additional provider of the YB3i unit to provide greater choice for commercial fishers. The Business Queensland's VMS information website, which relates to VMS equipment for the trawl fishery, will be updated to reflect the same information as contained on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' website when the requirements have been consolidated.
- d) Option Audio is still authorised by the department as a supplier of the YB3i vessel tracking unit for use in Queensland managed Fisheries.