

Question on Notice

No. 382

Asked on 27 March 2019

MRS J GILBERT ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to feedback received from Mackay recreational fishers regarding the difference in catch size with the introduction of net-free zones—

Will the Minister advise of the findings of the 'Performance of Queensland's net-free zones report'?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

In 2015, the Palaszczuk Government established net free zones in Mackay, Rockhampton and Cairns.

Capitalising on this, the Government is helping to further improve recreational fishing opportunities in the Mackay region through the co-development of the Mackay Recreational Fishing Strategy. The Strategy outlines a series of actions under the themes of:

- ecology and fisheries management
- recreational fishing infrastructure
- business and product development
- marketing and positioning
- enabling developments.

As part of this investment, the Queensland Government has provided \$100,000 in matched funding to the Mackay City Council to assist with implementation of the strategy actions and improve recreational fishing opportunities around the Mackay Net Free Zone. This funding will assist with infrastructure, promotion and signage.

The Performance of Queensland's Net Free Zones report shows that Mackay recreational fishers are increasingly satisfied with their fishing trips, with higher satisfaction levels in 2016 and 2018 than in 2015.

Fishers who were aware of the net free zone in Mackay had higher expectations for their upcoming fishing trips in the next 12 months than those who were unaware.