

Question on Notice

No. 153

Asked on Tuesday, 9 March 2021

MS S BOLTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the loggerhead turtles hatching along Noosa North Shore below the high tide mark over the last week—

Will the Minister advise what will be introduced during the season to prevent these hatchlings being run over at night by 4WDs?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

To assist in protecting turtle hatchling activity on Teewah Beach, and all the significant natural values of the Cooloola Recreation area, the Department of Environment and Science will continue to:

- encourage responsible and safe four wheel-driving, by promoting minimal impact beach driving practices through the point of sale of camping permits, onsite signage, the department's website and the use of social media channels;
- ensure that information is available to permit holders regarding turtle hatching and the need to be cautious when driving on the beach including new signage at beach entry points;
- patrol the area and actively engage with turtle volunteer groups such as the Coolool and Coolool Coastcare to identify potential hatchlings;
- undertake regular compliance patrols to monitor visitor behaviour and to enforce appropriate beach driving practices, mitigating threats to visitors and wildlife; and
- recommend visitors avoid driving on the beach after dark during turtle nesting season.