

Question on Notice

No. 703

Asked on 27 May 2021

MR S BENNETT ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise whether a Regulatory Impact Assessment will be carried out into the Fisheries Reforms, given the Queensland Productivity Commission stated that the methodology behind the reforms and harvest strategies did not meet the government's own Guide to Better Regulation?

ANSWER:

I confirm that the department has complied with all regulatory procedures in relation to progressing the fisheries reforms. The Government exempted these changes from a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) on the basis that a Post Implementation Review is commenced within two years after the implementation of the changes as outlined in the Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation.

In line with the Guide, the department will commence the Post Implementation Review within 2 years of 30 September 2020.

The need for fisheries reform has been discussed over a number of years, starting from the MRAG review in 2014 under the LNP, followed by the Green Paper in 2016, which received more than 11,000 submissions. The overwhelming message was that stakeholders wanted reform in the way fisheries are managed.

The Queensland Government has been openly progressing these reforms and consulting widely on them for the past five years including tens of thousands of submissions and hundreds of face-to-face meetings and telephone calls with fishers. This included the formation of 10 fishery specific working groups and the Sustainable Fisheries Expert Panel to provide advice on the reforms and the development of harvest strategies.

There have also been numerous formal public consultation steps where, based on feedback from all stakeholders including commercial fishers, adjustments to the reforms have been made to minimise potential impacts, while meeting the principles of best practice fisheries management outlined in the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027. Information about the various consultation processes, including discussion papers and consultation reports, are available on the departmental website at www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/sustainable/fisheries-reforms.

The consultative process around these vital reforms has generated information and analysis which is broadly equivalent to that of a formal RIS process.