

## Question on Notice

No. 750

Asked on Tuesday, 15 June 2021

**MR S BENNETT** 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 closing of submissions to the Review of the Zoning Plan for the Great Sandy Marine Park on 25th February 2019—

Will the Minister advise when the Draft Revised Zoning Plan will be released for public consultation?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science is undertaking the first comprehensive review of the Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan since the marine park was declared in 2006. This review aims to ensure that the marine park management effectively balances conservation and use and is aligned with the community's aspirations for this marine protected area.

The discussion paper released in 2019 generated over 3,300 public submissions. Those submissions proposed a wide range of management changes including: improvements to the protection of habitats and species; modifications to fishing arrangements within some parts of the marine park; better integration of First Nations peoples' aspirations for their traditional sea Country; and more effective support for local governments to respond to climate change impacts.

In delivering this review, the department is working in close partnership with the four organisations representing the First Nations peoples whose traditional sea Country incorporates large areas of the marine park, and the Independent Scientific Reference Group.

The economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the communities surrounding the Great Sandy Marine Park are also considerations that need to be factored into this zoning plan review process.

The department is currently finalising a range of draft management changes to the zoning plan to address issues raised in the discussion paper submissions and other matters.

A draft zoning plan and Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement will be released for broad community consultation as soon as possible.