

Question on Notice

No. 882

Asked on 18 June 2021

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

QUESTION:

With reference to fishing regulations banning commercial fishers from landing at private locations which will commence from 1 September 2021— Will the Minister outline (a) the consultation which was conducted to substantiate this advice listed by (i) date, (ii) location, and (iii) organisation and (b) what safety measures will be available to address concerns that commercial fishers are now forced to travel significant distances to reach a public landing location?

ANSWER:

The intent of the legislation commencing from 1 September 2021 is to ensure that the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol inspectors have unrestricted access to locations where commercially caught fish are landed. If inspectors are provided with unrestricted access, commercial fishers will continue to be able to land at any public place or a place that is used for trade or commerce, but is not a residence. In line with the original legislative intent, penalties may apply if inspectors are unable to access a landing location to undertake an inspection.

This legislation is a critical component of Queensland's Sustainable Fishing Strategy 2017-2027 which was arrived at after extensive consultation with commercial fishers and other stakeholders, and after thousands of submissions, starting with the MRAG Report, the subsequent 2016 Green Paper and the legislation.

If inspectors do not have unrestricted access to commercial fishery landing sites, they are unable to audit fishing records or enforce catch limits and other parts of Queensland's fishing laws.