

Question on Notice

No. 1199

Asked on 27 October 2022

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister highlight the work Queensland Fisheries is doing to liaise with stocking groups?

ANSWER:

Recreational fishing in Queensland generates more than \$333 million to the economy annually, with much of these benefits flowing to our regional and rural communities.

Fisheries Queensland has a long history of working with community-based stocking groups across Queensland to deliver world class, sustainable freshwater fishing opportunities across over 100 waterways, dams and weirs. Each year over three million juvenile native fish or fingerlings are released into Queensland waters by over 60 volunteer partners. This incredible volunteer workforce improves regional liveability and economic activity, while at the same time achieving terrific environmental outcomes.

Fisheries Queensland regularly engages with stocking groups over the telephone, in person at events and meetings, or through our Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme and Freshwater Fisheries Working Groups.

One of the important ways Fisheries Queensland engages with stocking groups is through the bi-annual Freshwater Fishing and Stocking Workshop, which was held last month in Mackay in partnership with the Mackay Regional Council, Freshwater Fishing and Stocking Association of Queensland Inc. and the Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association Inc.

Over 70 representatives from 39 stocking groups and related organisations attended the Workshop, which focused on future monitoring, habitat enhancement and engagement. Feedback from the event has been positive. I would like to thank all the volunteers who gave up their time to attend.

At the recommendation of the workshop participants, Fisheries Queensland will now hold online meetings twice a year with each region. These meetings will help stocking groups to share knowledge and ideas to strengthen freshwater fish stocking in their regions.