

Question on Notice

No. 1262

Asked on Tuesday, 8 November 2022

MR A PERRETT 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 draft Great Sandy National Park new management plan and Ministerial advice in September 2017 that it had commenced, that consultation with traditional owners were ongoing in October 2019, and advice in January 2022 that it will be released for public comment in 2022—

Will the Minister advise (a) whether the department has completed its discussions with traditional owners, (b) when discussions have taken place (reported separately by date and organisation) and (c) when the draft plan will be released for public consultation?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Queensland Government is committed to genuine engagement with our First Nations partners. The Great Sandy National Park management planning process provides a unique opportunity to collaboratively plan for how traditional lands should be managed into the future. The sharing and integration of traditional knowledge into contemporary and scientific park management will improve cultural, conservation and tourism outcomes, and cannot, and should not be rushed.

The Great Sandy Area includes the K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area and the Cooloolo Recreation Area dedicated under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*. A Management Plan is currently being prepared for each Recreation Area separately and gazetted in line with the provisions of the Act, including a period of public consultation and submission.

The Department of Environment and Science has also commissioned independent sustainable visitor management surveys for both K'gari Recreation Area and Cooloolo Recreation Area. These surveys and the Government response will also inform the Management Plans. These surveys are in the final stages and the Government will respond next year.

The department in partnership with the Kabi Kabi First Nations People and the Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation, are well engaged with an advanced draft Management Plan for the Cooloolo Recreation Area. This incorporates the Cooloolo (Noosa River) Resources Reserve, Great Sandy Resources Reserve, Double Island Point Conservation Park, Sheep Island Conservation Park, Womalah Resources Reserve and the Cooloolo Section of Great Sandy National Park.

In acknowledging the need for genuine consultation to ensure the Kabi Kabi First Nations People and the Butchulla People's rights and interests are appropriately represented, it is anticipated that a draft Cooloola Recreation Area Management Plan will be released for public consultation in the first half of 2023.

The department is also partnering with both the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and the Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation in the development of the Management Plan for the K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area. It is anticipated that a draft K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area Management Plan could be released for public consultation later in 2023.

The department and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation engage in regular formal working group meetings where a range of strategic planning and operational matters are discussed. In 2022, the following meetings have occurred with First Nations partners in relation to planning and managing the Great Sandy area:

| First Nations group | Date |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation | 12 August 2022 |
| Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation | 11 July 2022 2 September 2022 |
| Kabi Kabi First Nations People | 6 July 2022 3 November 2022 |

It is acknowledged and appreciated that representatives from First Nation groups devote their time to the development of these management plans on top of their own commitment to jobs, family and the community.