

Question on Notice

No. 316

Asked on 30 March 2022

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on how the Palaszczuk Government is supporting Queensland's aquaculture industry?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is proud to partner with the industry to help grow aquaculture across Queensland.

Aquaculture production in Queensland was worth \$193.5 million in 2020-21, an increase of 17.4 per cent from the previous year's production value.

The Queensland aquaculture industry employs approximately 786 full-time staff, many of which businesses are in regional areas. In 2019, the Palaszczuk Government released six land-based marine aquaculture development areas (ADAs) totalling 7,048 hectares. These areas are contributing to the growth of a sustainable aquaculture industry in Queensland.

The six ADAs are located in coastal areas in the Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Whitsunday, and Townsville council regions and are suitable for farming a range of marine species.

Off the back of this planning, other councils have expressed strong interest in ADAs. As a result, two new ADAs within the Hinchinbrook Regional Council area have been identified to promote economic diversification and investment within the region, adding a further 1,974 hectares of areas for production.

An Aquaculture Development Network has been established by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to facilitate private sector interactions. Despite the impacts of COVID-19 on the industry, over the last 24 months there has been significant investment in Queensland's aquaculture industry, with interstate companies including Tassal, Ornatas, and MainStream all making significant investments in Queensland.

As market demand for our locally produced, high-quality, and well-established barramundi and prawns continues to grow, we will also invest in new and emerging seafood products such as cobia and seaweed. We will also continue to support and promote research and innovation to grow the industry sustainably.

The opportunities are endless and the outlook for aquaculture in Queensland is bright.