

Question on Notice

No. 777

Asked on 16 August 2022

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland's commercial Fishers currently awaiting the results of the vessel tracking post-implementation review (PIR), nine months after the vessel tracking working group was informed it would be released— Will the Minister advise when the PIR will be made publicly available, and what consultation the commercial fishing industry should expect post its release?

ANSWER:

Vessel tracking has been in place since 1999 for the east coast trawl, sea cucumber and some net fisheries. Vessel tracking was expanded to all remaining commercial fisheries in 2019 and 2020. It contributes significantly to enhance compliance capabilities, assist with validation of fishing effort to help inform future fishery management arrangements and is a condition of several Australian Government wildlife trade operation export approvals.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) committed to undertaking a post implementation review (PIR) of vessel tracking following the recommendations of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee's examination of the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018.

A Vessel Tracking Working Group comprising commercial industry representatives and senior executives in DAF was established to assist with the PIR. Feedback received from the Working Group has been used to develop a consultation PIR report.

DAF has been working with the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) to ensure the consultation PIR report aligns with the Queensland Guide to Better Regulation. Once a letter of adequacy advice is received from OBPR, public consultation on the PIR report will commence.

DAF will communicate with the commercial fishing industry about the release of the consultation PIR and the consultation options.