

Question on Notice

No. 1197

Asked on Wednesday, 11 October 2023

MR A PERRETT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the draft Great Sandy National Park new management plan and answer to Question on Notice No. 773 of 2023—

Will the Minister advise when the draft plan will be released for public consultation?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science is currently working in partnership with First Nations groups to undertake management planning for the Great Sandy National Park in two parts, aligned with the Recreation Areas dedicated under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* – the Cooloolo Recreation Area and the K’gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area.

A draft Management Plan for the Cooloolo Recreation Area has been co-designed with the Kabi Kabi First Nations people and Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation. This ensures their rights and interests are represented in the future management of the area. The draft Management Plan is being finalised with departmental approvals being progressed to release the Plan for public consultation. Pending approval, it is anticipated that the Management Plan will be released before the end of 2023. The department will ensure all stakeholders are advised when the consultation period opens.

Management planning is ongoing for K’gari Recreation Area with the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and the Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation. Once prepared, the draft Management Plan will also be released for public consultation.

The management planning processes for both the Cooloolo Recreation Area and K’gari incorporate traditional and scientific knowledge to ensure the condition of cultural and conservation values is maintained or improved over time. Planning will also be informed by the visitor sustainability studies. This will ensure that the management frameworks for these areas are fit for purpose and that important natural and cultural values are maintained. It will also allow visitors to continue to experience and appreciate this internationally renowned area.