

Question on Notice

No. 1380

Asked on 26 October 2023

MRS J GILBERT asked the 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 department is assisting the aquaculture industry?

ANSWER:

In March this year, the Palaszczuk Government invested an additional \$7.5 million over five years into further developing the aquaculture industry, including \$3.9 million for research, development, and extension services, \$1.5 million for industry development and \$1.1 million for improved regulation and technical guidance and \$1 million for an aquaculture incubator.

It comes as the latest Ross Lobegeiger Report shows the Palaszczuk Government's strong support for aquaculture is paying dividends. In 2021-22, the total value of the Queensland aquaculture industry was \$224.7 million, a new record high, directly employing 889 people.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is the lead agency in ensuring this investment continues to contribute to the growth of a sustainable and innovative aquaculture industry in consultation with other government agencies and key stakeholders.

On 19 October 2023, I opened an aquaculture industry forum organised by the department that brought together key aquaculture industry stakeholders with Queensland Government departmental representatives to help shape the future of the industry in the state.

The forum was a fantastic chance for the aquaculture industry to talk about the opportunities in front of us and the challenges we will need to overcome in growing this important industry.

The \$7.5 million Palaszczuk Government investment will mean the department can further partner with industry to promote more industry development and provide further guidance for our aquaculture businesses to grow the world-class reputation of Queensland seafood.