

Question on Notice

No. 1546

Asked on Tuesday, 28 November 2023

MR N DAMETTO 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 current Hinchinbrook Island National Park Management Plan 2017 that limits the ability for Hinchinbrook Island to be unlocked and fully utilised as a premium tourist destination—

Will the Minister commit to reviewing the Hinchinbrook Island Management Plan as a matter of priority, ensuring that local tourism operators, Traditional Owners and Local Councils are consulted and involved in the process?

ANSWER:

The Hinchinbrook Island National Park Management Plan (the Plan) was approved in 2017. The Plan went through a targeted public consultation process receiving over 40 submissions. The Plan prioritises the international recognition of the ‘wilderness’ or ‘remote wild nature’ experience that draws visitors to Hinchinbrook Island.

The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* identifies that a management plan be reviewed within 10 years. Given the Plan was approved in 2017, there are no immediate plans to review the Plan.

The Plan states as a strategic management direction, the Department of Environment and Science (the department) will work with the tourism industry to explore new visitor opportunities, promote a coordinated approach to visitation and promote key messages about the National Park. The department continues to work with peak tourism bodies, local government and Traditional Owners about visitor opportunities.

The department has been regularly engaging with Traditional Owners and working in partnership to deliver a \$3.2 million project to revitalise and significantly improve the Thorsborne Trail and visitor facilities upgrade on Hinchinbrook Island.. This will improve the visitor experience and create new tourism product opportunities, while maintaining the exceptional scenic beauty and ecosystems of this iconic destination for the future of all Queenslanders, and our national and international visitors.