

Question on Notice

No. 1563

Asked on Wednesday, 29 November 2023

MS S BOLTON 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 Independent review of the powers and penalties under the Environment Protection Act by Judge Jones and Susan Hedge where the government supported all recommendations—

Will the Minister commit to ensuring they are implementing these in full and in line with the intention of the recommendations?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Queensland Government released its response to the independent review undertaken by retired Judge Richard Jones and Barrister Susan Hedge on the adequacy of existing powers and penalties under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* in May 2023, providing support for 17 recommendations and one recommendation supported in-principle.

Several of the recommendations have already been delivered through the *Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023*, which was passed by the Queensland Parliament in March 2023.

The *Improving the powers and penalties provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 Consultation Paper* was released on 14 September 2023 for public consultation on how the Government proposes to implement the remaining recommendations from the independent review.

After an eight-week consultation period, which included targeted information sessions with key stakeholders, 48 submissions were received on the Government's proposals. These are currently being considered by the Government.