

Question on Notice

No. 1585

Asked on Wednesday, 29 November 2023

MR M HEALY 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 the numbers of new fisheries staff?

ANSWER:

Queensland's combined commercial, recreational, charter fishing and aquaculture sectors contribute more than \$3 billion annually to Queensland's Gross State Product and support more than 28,300 direct and indirect full time equivalent Queensland jobs.

In October 2023, Fisheries Queensland inducted ten additional field officers and one fisheries investigator into the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP). QBFP monitors fishing activities and investigates alleged illegal activity along 7,000 kilometres of coastline and hundreds of freshwater rivers and impoundments.

These new officers will join the Fisheries Queensland workforce who work with the community, recreational fishers, industry and First Nations fishers to achieve economic prosperity through the innovative, sustainable and responsible management of Queensland fisheries.

QBFP officers also deliver compliance services on behalf of other State and Federal agencies, including boating safety for Maritime Safety Queensland, and marine park compliance for the Department of Environment and Science and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. QBFP officers and assets support the Australian Fisheries Management Authority in the Torres Strait Protected Zone through joint agency operations focused on illegal foreign fishers.