

Question on Notice

No. 645

Asked on 23 May 2023

MS C LUI 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 success of the Department's Fish 'n SIPS program and any recent winners?

ANSWER:

Recreational fishing in Queensland generates \$333 million to our economy annually. It supports good jobs and a great lifestyle, especially in regional areas.

Fish 'n SIPS is a pilot tagged fish competition in northern and central Queensland. Fish 'n SIPS aims to raise the profile of the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme.

The competition is being run by the Freshwater Fishing and Stocking Association of Queensland with support and funding from Fisheries Queensland and has a total prize pool of \$50 000.

Lake Tinaroo which adjoins the member's electorate, Lake Proserpine, Kinchant Dam, Lake Callide, and Lake Cania each have 20 tagged fish for keen stocked impoundment permit scheme (SIPS) anglers to catch.

As of 30 May 2023 four prizes have been claimed worth a total of \$38 000. A lucky Brisbane fisher recently took out fourth prize with a 109cm Barramundi caught in Lake Tinaroo, on the Atherton Tablelands, winning \$3000 to fund his next fishing trip.

Preliminary analysis indicates the pilot competition has resulted in a significant increase in the number of SIPS permits purchased. This in turn results in increased spending by recreational fishers on items such as fishing equipment, accommodation and food.

Recreational fishing tourism supports local businesses and employment opportunities in our regional communities. It helps sustain fishing charter operators, boat hire services, bait and tackle shops, accommodations, restaurants, and various other tourism-related businesses. These economic activities generate income and create jobs, benefitting the local economy.

All fishers are encouraged to grab a SIPS permit and visit one of these world class impoundment fisheries for their chance to share in the remaining \$12 000 prize pool.