

Question on Notice

No. 773

Asked on Wednesday, 14 June 2023

MR A PERRETT 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 draft Great Sandy National Park new management plan and answer to Question on Notice No. 1262 of 2022—

Will the Minister advise when the draft plan will be released for public consultation?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science is undertaking planning for the Great Sandy National Park Area in two parts, aligned to the Recreation Areas dedicated under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*, in recognition and respect to the three native title parties and their respective native title rights and interests over their traditional lands and waters in the Great Sandy Area.

Given the wide range of users, high visitation and importance to the tourism industry and Traditional Owners, it is important to consult widely and balance competing interests carefully. This takes time to do thoroughly.

Management planning for the Cooloola Recreation Area is well advanced. The draft management plan has been co-designed with the Kabi Kabi First Nations people and Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation to ensure their rights and interests are represented in the future management of the area. The department is now finalising the draft management plan and resource information documents for anticipated release for public consultation in the second half of 2023.

Management Planning is also progressing well for K'gari (which is within the K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area) in collaboration with the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and the Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation, with further collaborative planning work continuing.

The planning is being informed by visitor sustainability studies, collaborative on-ground identification of values and the impacts to those values, and the cultural knowledge of our First Nations partners, to ensure appropriate management directions are identified.

The co-designed planning process will provide a balance of traditional and scientific knowledge and understanding to maintain and improve the condition of cultural and conservation values along with the internationally renowned visitor experience of the area. Release of this draft will be subject to finalising this co-designed work and also consideration of any broader feedback from the Cooloola planning process.