

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 960**

**Asked on 23 August 2023**

**MR S KNUTH** ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the recently formed Future Fishing Taskforce and its membership being laden with Queensland Government representatives, including from Fisheries Queensland, DES, Queensland Treasury and Department of the Premier and Cabinet, as well as a former WWF official—

Will the Minister explain why there is no representation from the fishing industry to provide a balanced view to proposed changes to the fishery given the significant impacts of recent decisions on Spanish mackerel and gillnet fishing on commercial fisherman, marketers and retailers?

### **ANSWER:**

The Future Fishing Taskforce was established to provide expert advice to the Queensland Government on the best approach, design and implementation of structural adjustment for those impacted by changed fishing access in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and ensure alignment with the Great Sandy Marine Park mitigation package.

On 17 July 2023, the Palaszczuk Government announced the appointment of Mr John Tanzer as Chair of the Taskforce. Mr Tanzer has significant fisheries, marine park and non-government organisation experience developed over many years working in Queensland, the Commonwealth and at an international level.

The taskforce will seek input from subject matter experts, stakeholders, peak bodies and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. On 3 August 2023, the taskforce heard directly from commercial fishing licence, quota and business owners, and lease-holders from Cairns, Townsville, Ayr, Cardwell and the Sunshine Coast. The Queensland Seafood Industry Association Executive Officer also attended the meeting to provide advice on behalf of the organisation's members.

The taskforce provided an opportunity for affected stakeholders to make submissions, which closed on 28 August 2023. Affected stakeholders include commercial fishers, seafood retail businesses, Traditional Owners, recreational fishers, conservation groups and research scientists. As at 29 August 2023, one hundred and two submissions have been received via the consultation portal. Further submissions have been received by email. All submissions are being reviewed and will be provided to the taskforce for consideration.