

Question on Notice

No. 234

Asked on Thursday, 7 March 2024

MR N DAMETTO asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Government committing to issue 40 gillnet fishing symbols (NX) for the Great Barrier Reef region to expire on 30 June 2027 and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries commenting publicly that 40 licences would be issued, despite there being more than 40 applications for NX licences being made to the department—

Will the Minister confirm (a) how many NX licences have been issued to date and (b) is the government reneging on their commitment to issue 40 NX licences?

ANSWER:

- (a) Twenty-three NX symbols have been assessed and issued to date by Fisheries Queensland.
- (b) The Government committed to issuing up to 40 temporary NX symbols to support the phasing out of gillnet fishing in the Great Barrier Reef. Commercial net fishers were consulted in January 2024, with many expressing the view that 40 NX symbols may be too many and recommended approximately up to 30 symbols be issued instead in the Great Barrier Reef.