

## Question on Notice

No. 75

Asked on Wednesday, 11 February 2026

**HON L LINARD** ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Environment's 2024 response to the K'gari (Fraser Island) Sustainable Visitor Capacity Studies—

Will the Minister provide an update on (a) recommendation CP3 and all related subsections of CP3(1), CP3(2), and CP3(3) which relate to the improved regulation of day visitor and vehicle access permit numbers during peak periods and (b) the commitment given by the Department of Environment to work with the Department of Tourism to 'implement the 'Towards 2032' tourism vision incorporating VE8 and VE9 in kind commitments where appropriate'?

### ANSWER:

- (a) The vast majority of visitors to K'gari prefer to stay overnight at the many accommodation providers including resorts, private accommodation providers and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed campgrounds. As the number of people that can be accommodated is naturally capped by the number of beds, the Government has no intention to cap visitor numbers to the Island.

Due to the cost of travelling to the Island, including barge fares, requirement for high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles and the time required to move around the Island, the vast majority of day visitors to K'gari do so through organised commercial tour operators. Commercial tour operators operate under strict permit conditions, including limits on group size and access only to approved sites. As a result, the impacts associated with day visitors—even during peak visitation periods, are already tightly managed.

All vehicles entering K'gari must have a valid vehicle access permit issued by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

A dedicated team enforces compliance for vehicle access permits for the Fraser Island Recreation Area (K'gari). The Automatic Number Plate Recognition System installed in 2022 validates vehicles entering the Recreation Area 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service continues to invest in the Automatic Number Plate Recognition System technology with recent upgrades including 'live' time plate reading and integration with a nationwide registration database system. This system is utilised by other government agencies including the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

The Vehicle Access Permit fee exemption policy is currently under review which will better clarify eligibility and supporting documentation requirements.

Increased education will take place for vehicle access permit exemption holders to ensure they are using their exemption for the intended purpose.

- (b) The inclusion of tourism and environment within my Ministerial portfolio further strengthens the connection between these sectors through the establishment of the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation. This integrated approach recognises that Queensland's natural assets, cultural heritage and visitor economy are deeply interdependent.

The former *Towards Tourism 2032* strategy has been superseded by the Queensland Government's long term tourism plan *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future*. *Destination 2045* is a bold plan to secure Queensland's position as a global tourism leader— showcasing our environment, cultures and diverse regions to the world, promoting destinations and experiences, telling a unified story, and driving greater impact through strong collaboration across industry.

This plan has a focus on empowering Queensland tourism businesses to modernise and thrive, boosting industry capability and elevating the quality of visitor experiences. It aims to create world-class tourism offerings that deepen awareness and understanding of our natural and cultural values, while ensuring these assets are protected for future generations.