

WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH RESOURCE

Petition

HON COLIN de GRUSSA (Agricultural — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.03 pm]: I present an e-petition containing 17 885 signatures, couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled. We the undersigned ...

are opposed to the proposal by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to ban demersal fishing for between 8 and 9 months a year and believe it does not align to the objects of fisheries legislation.

We therefore ask the Legislative Council to:

Review the proposal by the Department for Primary Industries and Regional Development to ban West Coast demersal fishing for between 8 and 9 months a year.

The recreational fishing industry contributes over \$2.4 billion dollars to the WA economy every year. Recreational fishing is a vital part of the WA lifestyle, with demersal fishing between Augusta and Kalbarri being very popular pastime amongst 1000s of West Australians. The proposed ban will not only affect the recreational fishing community it will also have a devastating flow on effect to many small businesses and families in both the metropolitan area and coastal regional towns, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs and income.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray

[See paper 1696.]