

NINGALOO MARINE PARK — WHALE SHARK INTERACTION TOURS

6336. Hon Sally Talbot to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

I refer to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) licence to conduct commercial in water whale shark interaction tours within Ningaloo Marine Park, and I ask —

- (1) In relation to the answer received to question on notice No. 5648 —
  - (a) when was Mark Ferguson awarded the licence for Exmouth Diving Centre Tours;
  - (b) when was William McDonald awarded the licence for King's Ningaloo Reef Tours;
  - (c) why are the following licences, which were awarded to commence 1 January 2009, not listed in the 2012 list of licensees? Please give details of any sale, transfer or other licence/applicant arrangements explaining these discrepancies between the two lists —
    - (i) Katarina Mikic, trading as Ningaloo Blue Carters, access point at Tantabiddi;
    - (ii) Douglas Hunt, trading as Coral Bay Adventures, access point at Coral Bay;
    - (iii) Peter Shaw, trading as Ningaloo Experience, access point at Coral Bay; and
    - (iv) Richard Casey, trading as Three Islands Marine Charters, access point at Tantabiddi.
- (2) When were the following licences, which are not listed as awarded to commence 1 January 2009, granted and what tendering arrangements were used for the granting of these new licences? Please give details of any sale, transfer or other licence/applicant arrangements explaining how these five licences were granted —
  - (a) Kenneth Bailye trading as Coral Bay Eco tours, access point at Coral Bay;
  - (b) Michael Husband trading as Three Islands Whale Shark Dive, access point at Tantabiddi;
  - (c) Stephen Powell trading as Ningaloo Reef Dive, access point at Coral Bay;
  - (d) Neil O'Driscoll trading as Sea Venture Charters, access point at Tantabiddi; and
  - (e) Andreina De Petra trading as Three Islands Whale Shark Dive, access point at Tantabiddi.
- (3) Has any current or previous employee of DEC ever been a licensee or applicant for a licence to conduct commercial in water whale shark interaction tours within Ningaloo Marine Park?
- (4) I refer to the answer received to question on notice No. 5648, part (6) regarding Wildlife Management Program No 27 'Whale Shark Interaction Management', and ask —
  - (a) when did the review commence;
  - (b) what are the terms of reference for the review;
  - (c) who is conducting the review;
  - (d) when is the review scheduled to be completed; and
  - (e) when will the findings be made public?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

- (1)
  - (a) 21 May 2012.
  - (b) 31 March 2012.
  - (c)
    - (i) The licence was surrendered following the granting of a replacement licence to Neil O'Driscoll, on 23 February 2011.
    - (ii) The licence was surrendered following the granting of a replacement licence to Marnie Hunt, on 25 February 2011. Ms Hunt's licence was then surrendered and a replacement licence was granted to Kenneth George Bailye on 2 August 2011.
    - (iii) The licence was surrendered following the granting of a replacement licence to Stephen Powell, on 24 December 2010.
    - (iv) The licence was surrendered following the granting of a replacement licence to Michael Husband, on 4 November 2010.
- (2)
  - (a) 2 August 2011, by way of a replacement licence process.
  - (b) 4 November 2010, by way of a replacement licence process.

- (c) 24 December 2010, by way of a replacement licence process.
  - (d) 23 February 2011, by way of a replacement licence process.
  - (e) 5 September 2011, by way of a replacement licence process.
- (3) Yes
- (4) (a) March 2012.
- (b) There are no terms of reference for the review.
- (c) The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), in consultation with external stakeholders and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.
- (d) The review of the wildlife management program by DEC is expected to be completed in December 2012.
- (e) The management program can be released after the Minister for Environment has considered advice from the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and DEC in relation to its approval.