

VACSWIM

677. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to reports that VacSwim venues at Starvation Bay, Cape Riche and Cosy Corner will not be provided by the Department of Education in 2024, and I note a recent review announcement.

- (1) What specific criteria were used in the decision to close each of the following venues —
 - (a) Starvation Bay;
 - (b) Cape Riche; and
 - (c) Cosy Comer?
- (2) How do the above three venues differ from venues such as those below when the above criteria are applied —
 - (a) Bremer Bay;
 - (b) Cheynes Beach; and
 - (c) Flinders Bay?
- (3) When will the results of the review be available for the communities identified in (1)?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The following criteria were assessed against a consideration of the likelihood that the risk might occur, the consequences if one did occur, and the mitigation measures that could be implemented by the department. The criteria are whether the venue was an open beach or closed water location; whether the beach was patrolled, partially patrolled or unpatrolled; distance and time for emergency services response, including sea rescue; physical factors impacting venue suitability, such as the depth of water; the extent of mobile phone coverage; availability of suitable accommodation nearby for program staff; and complaints and/or concerns raised by swimming staff regarding venues or locations, including problematic interactions with members of the public.
- (2) The main difference is difficulty for quick access by emergency services.
- (3) The outcome of the independent review will be communicated to the community well in advance of the upcoming VacSwim season.