

SHELLFISH FARMING — ALBANY — REPORTS

807. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the environmental assessments report in support of shellfish farming in Albany, dated July 2021, commissioned by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and undertaken by BMT.

- (1) Given the qualification in the addendum to the report that “BMT wishes to emphasise that the results presented herein are based on a one-dimensional hydrodynamic model, coupled to a simple ecosystem model. It relies on several assumptions, many of which are untested, or if not characterised by significant uncertainty”, will the minister now refer the south coast aquaculture development zones to the Environmental Protection Authority for assessment prior to making any decisions regarding the zone that may impact on other existing uses?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

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

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries, I provide the following answer.

- (1) No.
- (2) As part of the planning process, the Environmental Protection Authority chair advised that the proposed approach of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in respect of environmental monitoring and management of the zone was reasonable and would lead to appropriate environmental outcomes. The EPA position was dependent on best-practice management and monitoring programs being in place to enable an adaptive management approach for the zone. This position was also supported by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. DPIRD has existing legislative powers to ensure that effective monitoring and adaptive management can be implemented and will work with the aquaculture industry and DWER to ensure the environmental sustainability of its operations.