

FISHERIES — SHARK BAY

1347. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the management arrangements that apply to the harvesting of prawns within the Shark Bay managed fishery.

- (1) Why was no scientific rationale or reasoning provided to the industry by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for the 30 per cent reduction of headrope in 2023 moving to 50 per cent in 2024?
- (2) What analysis was undertaken by DPIRD on the social and economic impacts on individuals, businesses and the community, in particular Carnarvon, by reducing the size of the fishery by 50 per cent?

Hon SAMANTHA ROWE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question and provide the following answer on behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries.

- (1) The scientific rationale was provided to industry in 2022 as part of the statutory consultation process required to amend the Shark Bay prawn management plan. The 33 per cent headrope reduction in 2023 and the 50 per cent headrope reduction in 2024 is part of a management package to address sustainability issues in the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery.
- (2) In recognition of the social and economic impacts associated with the required 50 per cent headrope reduction, a two-stage management package was developed. The 33 per cent headrope reduction implemented for the 2023 season provided businesses the opportunity to adjust their fishing operations in advance of the full 50 per cent headrope reduction in 2024.