

NINGALOO MARINE PARK — WHALE SHARK INTERACTION TOURS

627. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to question on notice 5648 about Ningaloo Marine Park and Whale Shark Interaction Tours.

- (1) In relation to part (5) of the answer —
 - (a) what are the terms of reference for the review;
 - (b) who is conducting the review;
 - (c) when did the review commence; and
 - (d) when will it be completed?
- (2) In relation to part (8) of the answer, why do some licences expire in 2013 and others in 2018?
- (3) Can a licence be sold or transferred?
- (4) If yes to (3), how does the sale or transfer take place?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)
 - (a) There are no terms of reference for the review. The review of the vacant licence has been incorporated into a review of the Department of Environment and Conservation's Wildlife Management Program No 27; whale shark interaction management with particular reference to Ningaloo Marine Park.
 - (b) DEC, in consultation with external stakeholders and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.
 - (c) 17 October 2011.
 - (d) The review of the wildlife management program is expected to be completed by 15 December 2012.
- (2) Following the announcement in November 2011 by the Ministers for Tourism and Environment of the implementation of the recommendations of the Review of Nature-Based Tourism, a performance review was undertaken of all licences. Those that had performed to a high level had the original period of their licence extended from five to 10 years. These licences therefore expire in 2018. A further performance review of the licences that were not extended will be undertaken at the end of the 2012 whale shark tour season, which is expected to end later this month.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.