

WHITE SHARK MONITORING PROGRAM

**922. Hon AMBER-JADE SANDERSON to the minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:**

I refer to the Department of Fisheries' current white shark monitoring program undertaken jointly with South Australian and South African authorities.

- (1) When did this current program commence?
- (2) How much has the Western Australian government spent towards this program in each financial year since it began?
- (3) How many sharks have been tagged under this program by —
  - (a) the WA Department of Fisheries;
  - (b) South Australian authorities; and
  - (c) South African authorities?
- (4) What resources does the Western Australian Department of Fisheries have at its disposal to tag white sharks?
- (5) Has the government conducted any reviews into the effectiveness of shark tagging programs; and, if yes, will the minister table them?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

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

- (1) The full-scale shark monitoring project was initiated in 2011–12 as part of the shark hazard mitigation initiative funded by the Liberal–National government.
- (2) Expenditure in the last three financial years was \$608 286, \$947 453 and \$292 030.
- (3)
  - (a) 152.
  - (b) 180.
  - (c) 50.
- (4) The Department of Fisheries has access to significant resources to assist with the shark monitoring project, including a 21-metre research vessel and a large patrol vessel. It also has priority access to regionally based patrol vessels and mobile research vessels. The project also has use of a remote operating vessel.
- (5) The program has been in full operation for less than 18 months.