

**MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL —
PEEL–HARVEY BLUE SWIMMER CRAB AND MULLET FISHERIES**

Statement by Minister for Fisheries

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Fisheries) [2.25 pm]: It was with great pleasure on Friday that I attended an event to celebrate the certification of the Peel–Harvey blue swimmer crab and mullet fisheries achieving the internationally coveted Marine Stewardship Council sustainability certification. Although MSC certification has been traditionally used for commercial fisheries, the Mandurah Licensed Fishermen’s Association and Recfishwest joined forces to make history by achieving the world’s first joint commercial and recreational fishery to receive certification, making Mandurah’s crab stocks amongst the most sustainable in the world. This brings the number of fully certified Western Australian fisheries to five, with the Exmouth Gulf and Shark Bay prawn trawl fisheries achieving certification late last year and the west coast rock lobster fishery becoming the first ever fishery in the world to receive MSC certification in 2000.

The certification program has been made possible thanks to the Liberal–National government’s \$14.5 million investment in MSC certification in 2012. The London-based MSC is an independent non-profit organisation that sets the international gold standard in third-party fisheries sustainability certification and is backed by organisations including the World Wildlife Fund. The MSC’s chain of custody certification system aims to transform the seafood market by recognising and rewarding sustainable fishing practices and thereby influence the choices people make when buying seafood.

My congratulations go to Mr Damien Bell, the president of the Mandurah Licensed Fishermen’s Association, who has been a driving force behind the certification of the crab and mullet fisheries. I am pleased to inform the house that all the state’s 47 commercial fisheries have now completed the pre-assessment process, an important step in achieving full certification. The abalone, Kimberley and Pilbara trap fisheries have nominated to move to the full assessment stage and later this year I look forward to the west coast deep-sea crab and the silver-lipped pearl fishery for pearl production completing the full certification process. The Liberal–National government’s management of our fisheries resources has been second to none and the continued expansion of the MSC certification program is testament to this fact and it is recognised by not only Western Australians, but also the world. Our investment in the MSC program is another example of how the Liberal–National government is making the lives of Western Australians better every day.