

COCKBURN SOUND — FISH STOCK LOSSES

1416. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Fisheries:

Given the recovery of 700 prime species fish from the beach and waters of Cockburn Sound more than 12 days ago can the minister advise —

- (1) The estimated extent of fish stock losses when factoring in that many affected fish would have sunk to the ocean floor or otherwise remain unrecovered?
- (2) The possible impacts on other marine and birdlife that may have been affected by the consumption of affected fish?
- (3) Any other long-term consequences from the event?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The interesting thing is that the question is shown as coming from Hon Darren West to the Minister for Fisheries and that was the same as the last question as well.

- (1) It is not possible to determine the full extent of fish loss beyond that which has been observed and estimated. The current estimates based on observed evidence is in the region of 1 000 fish of mixed species.
- (2) There are no reports from the Department of Parks and Wildlife of other wildlife being affected and linked to this event.
- (3) Given that this event remains subject to an ongoing and active investigation to determine a likely cause, it is not possible to forecast any long-term consequences at this time.

Mr President, may I give the answer to the other question as well?

The PRESIDENT: You may.