

SHARK DRUM LINE PROGRAM

997. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to a media statement dated 27 September 2012 by the former Minister for Fisheries titled “Shark mitigation to protect beachgoers”, and to the government’s imminent threat policy dated 23 November 2012.

- (1) The media statement refers to \$2 million for a new service to allow the Department of Fisheries to track, catch and, if necessary, destroy sharks identified in close proximity to beachgoers, including setting drum lines if a danger is posed. Please provide a detailed breakdown of how that \$2 million was spent, including the date by which the full amount was expended.
- (2) Under the imminent threat policy, is it necessary to seek approval from the federal government on each occasion that an individual shark deemed to be posing a threat is destroyed?
- (3) Please provide the times, dates and locations on each occasion that the policy has been activated—in other words, attempts have been made to catch and/or destroy a shark.
- (4) What is the reason that no shark deemed to be posing an imminent threat has ever been caught or destroyed?
- (5) Please refer me to the specific section and clauses of the federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, WA Fish Resources Management Act and the WA Wildlife Conservation Act that enable a shark deemed to be posing an imminent threat to be captured and destroyed.

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. However, it is not possible to provide a response in the time frame requested due to the amount of work involved in providing a response. The Department of Fisheries respectfully requests that the question be placed on notice.