

FISHERIES — SHARK INCIDENT — WYLIE BAY

1331. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to question without notice 2172 asked on 23 October 2014.

- (1) Did the WA government receive an exemption from the federal Minister for the Environment to deploy drum lines at Wylie Bay near Esperance before the first drum line was deployed at 12.18 pm?
- (2) Who in the WA government made the final decision to deploy the drum lines?
- (3) Given the exemption granted by the federal environment minister refers to only one shark posing a threat after the incident, why were drum lines left in the water another three hours after the first white shark was killed?
- (4) Was tagged shark WA017 the first shark recovered dead on the drum lines on 2 October 2014?
- (5) Does the government intend to deploy drum lines in the event a large white shark with a transmitting tag is detected by an early warning receiver off a popular beach?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) The Department of the Premier and Cabinet made contact with the office of the federal environment minister to advise of the attack in Esperance, that a formal exemption would be sought and that gear was to be deployed. I understand that an exchange of correspondence occurred, with the exemption instrument being received approximately 90 minutes after gear was deployed.
- (2) The decision to deploy the drum lines was made by the director general of the Department of Fisheries, in consultation with the director general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
- (3) The exemption is not interpreted as applying to a single shark. The second set of gear remained in the water, as the initial report from the surfer injured in the incident at Esperance suggested that more than one shark was involved.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The government will deploy drum lines when it is considered that the presence of a shark poses a serious threat to public safety. It is unlikely that a single detection of a white shark off a popular beach would be considered a serious threat.