

COCKBURN SOUND — FISH STOCK LOSSES

1411. Hon DARREN WEST to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer the death of over 700 fish in Cockburn Sound during the period 19 November to 22 November 2015, inclusive.

- (1) Have any further fish deaths been recorded since 22 November; and, if there have been, what are the latest details?
- (2) Are preliminary results available from the ChemCentre of samples taken; and, if so, what do these results indicate?
- (3) Will the minister table a copy of the results; and, if not, why not?
- (4) Is there a temporary ban on fishing and/or other secondary recreation anywhere within Cockburn Sound; and, if yes, what area is covered and how long is the ban in place for?
- (5) Is Cockburn Sound currently considered safe for primary recreation activities such as swimming?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) There have been recent reports of new deaths mostly involving blowfish between Mangles Bay and the Causeway. These are being investigated and sampled today.
- (2) Yes. We are seeking expert interpretation of these results but there is nothing obvious that might explain the cause of the incident.
- (3) Results of summaries of testing will be made available at a future date when testing is complete.
- (4) No. Current Department of Health advice is that the waters of the sound are safe for recreation, including fishing. Closures are in place for demersal scalefish, pink snapper and crabs as part of ongoing fisheries management measures.
- (5) Yes. Current Department of Health advice is that the waters of the sound are safe for recreation, including fishing.