

SHARK DRUM LINE PROGRAM

154. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Has the Department of Fisheries briefed the minister on what consolidated account-funded activities have been temporarily reallocated to undertake the shark cull?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), can the minister outline to the house what the suspended activities are?
- (4) What impact will this suspension have on the department's normal activities?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the member for no notice of the question!

- (1)–(4) There was an estimation done of what it would cost to do it, and it was a figure that the department believed would then be recouped back after 30 April when it was all added up, so it was, I guess, an estimation for that. What was the last question?

Hon Ken Travers: I am asking about the suspended activities to allow the minister to do it.

Hon KEN BASTON: Yes. Obviously, some regulatory work would be undertaken by those officers. I believe that a particular boat we were using was not going to be in service in other places, so therefore it was probably taken into account that that boat was available. That boat went into service for a while, so it was changed over.

The *Houtman* came down from the Abrolhos Islands and was used for a short time as well. Really, I guess it was just the staff that were on that boat; I think, from memory, it was a three-plus-three. It was a 24-hour because it is six to six; there were two crews swapping over. Basically, I understand that the regulatory role that might have been played in measuring either commercial or recreational was probably all that was missed out.