

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES — FISH KILL INCIDENT REPORT — COCKBURN SOUND

116. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the Department of Fisheries' fish kill incident report relating to events in Cockburn Sound in November–December 2015, including figure 2 at page 8 of the report.

- (1) Why was the Landgate FireWatch website used for information on sea surface temperature rather than data from the Integrated Marine Observing System?
- (2) Does the Department of Fisheries contribute financially and/or in kind to the IMOS program?
- (3) If yes to (2), what is the department's contribution to that program in this financial year?
- (4) Does the department intend in the future to use IMOS data for information about sea temperature?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) The main source of information was the Department of Fisheries' in-situ loggers deployed in Cockburn Sound. These loggers collect temperature measurements on an hourly basis, with data having been collected for the last eight years. This data source was used in preference to IMOS data, as data collected by in-situ loggers is widely acknowledged as being more accurate than satellite-derived sea surface temperature, especially in coastal areas in close proximity to land.
- (2) The department makes an in-kind contribution to the IMOS program in the form of staff attendance at its reference group meetings and through the contribution of relevant data sources.
- (3) The contribution is approximately two days of staff time per year in attending the IMOS reference group.
- (4) Yes, when this provides the most accurate data available.
- (5) Not applicable.