

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES — 2014–15 ANNUAL REPORT**

*Statement by Minister for Fisheries*

**HON KEN BASTON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Fisheries)** [10.05 am]: In a short while, the Department of Fisheries 2014–15 annual report will be tabled in Parliament. I am very pleased to inform the house that this year's report card on the department's operations once again includes some very good results.

The annual community survey for 2014–15 shows that more than eight out of 10 Western Australians are satisfied with the department's management of the state's aquatic resources. With a satisfaction rating of an estimated 84.8 per cent, this is the fifth year in a row that the department has been rated above 80 per cent. For the same period, the department's stakeholder survey delivered an estimated 79.9 per cent satisfaction rating, which is a great result, particularly when we consider that it has risen from 67 per cent in 2010–11. These results indicate that the state government is achieving key aquatic resource management goals in a consultative way that produces broad support and understanding of the department's management role. The department uses an adaptive management approach, based on sound scientific analysis, to make tough decisions and adjustments to ensure our fish stocks are sustainable for the long term. These positive outcomes build on a successful year for our fishing industry, which saw the Western Australian rock lobster fishery receive global recognition in Brussels for 15 years of continuous sustainability certification from the London-based Marine Stewardship Council.

Some other highlights of this year's annual report include: the value of the state's commercial fisheries and aquaculture production now sits at \$490 million; Western Australia's commercial and recreational fishing sectors contributed a very significant \$1.5 billion to gross state product in 2014–15; and an estimated 711 000 people, or 29.6 per cent of the population, took part in recreational fishing at least once in 2014–15.

Ultimately, this review demonstrates the hard work undertaken by the state government to successfully build on our relationships with the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. I congratulate the Department of Fisheries for its great work, and I thank the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council and Recfishwest, as well as the entire fishing industry, for their excellent support in helping manage the state's aquatic resources.