

DOLPHIN DISCOVERY CENTRE — FUNDING

347. Hon BEN DAWKINS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development:

I ask this question for James in Bunbury.

I refer to the ABC news article on 12 April, which announced the WA Labor government's decision to spend \$1.5 million to bail out the Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre, which has recently gone into voluntary administration. After spending WA taxpayer funds of \$13 million in 2019 for a major upgrade of the centre and further COVID-19-related grants from the government since 2020, which were referred to by the minister in the ABC article, can the minister please advise what provisions have been put in place to ensure that these huge sums of taxpayers' money are used effectively and productively?

Hon KYLE McGINN replied:

I do not have a question from James; I have a question from Hon Ben Dawkins.

The PRESIDENT: Please continue, honourable member.

Hon KYLE McGINN: I will just check. Is the number 389?

Hon Ben Dawkins: Yes, it is 389. I guess people learn at different rates. I know that.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Please provide the answer, parliamentary secretary.

<041> O/5

Hon KYLE McGINN: The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Regional Development.

The state government, following an in-depth financial analysis by administrators RSM Australia, will assist Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Incorporated to achieve financial sustainability with funding support managed through a financial assistance agreement between the state and Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Incorporated. Through the South West Development Commission, an external dolphin discovery centre advisory group will be established to explore and recommend new tourism and hospitality activities at the facility to ensure long-term sustainability.