

FISHERIES — NUTRITION

**880. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries:**

I refer the minister to my previous comments in the chamber on hemp as a food for our fish stocks and to an earlier study undertaken in 2017 that showed that fish fed on cannabis oil, including THC, had noticeably lower stress levels and improved feed conversion.

- (1) What is fish husbandry worth annually to the WA economy?
- (2) Has DPIRD undertaken or encouraged any research into hemp or cannabis as a feed stock for locally farmed fish; and, if not, why not?
- (3) Will the minister, with his joint portfolios of Regional Development and Fisheries, encourage such research and innovation going forward?

**Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:**

I thank the member for the great question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Fisheries.

- (1) The value of finfish aquaculture in Western Australia in 2021–22 was approximately \$17 million.
- (2) No. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has undertaken, and continues to undertake, significant research into fish nutrition in collaboration with industry and university partners. The current focus is on non-terrestrial protein sources to improve sustainability, which is a key industry priority.
- (3) DPIRD will continue to undertake world-leading research into fish nutrition in line with priorities identified by industry.