



## Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-609928

Mr Mark Warner  
Committee Clerk  
Estimates and Financial Operations Committee  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000  
[lcefoc@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:lcefoc@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Warner

Further to correspondence dated 24 May 2016 from the Hon Ken Travers MLC, Chair of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, enclosed please find answers to questions from the Hon Robin Chapple MLC regarding the proposed Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park.

Yours sincerely

Colin Barnett MLA  
**PREMIER; MINISTER FOR TOURISM**

09 JUN 2016

Enc.

## **Estimates and Financial Operations Committee**

### **Tourism Western Australia**

#### **Hon Robin Chapple MLC asked:**

1) Can the Minister advise how the economic and tourism branding benefits that these tourism operators mention were taken into consideration in the decision not to include a marine sanctuary zone in the draft Yawuru Nagulagus Roebuck Bay Marine Park?

Answer: Each marine park in Western Australia has a unique set of values and circumstances, which must be considered in designing the most appropriate management regime. The proposed Yawuru Nagulagan Roebuck Bay Marine Park is being created for multiple uses and aims to protect the cultural, ecological, economic and tourism values of the area. Tourism branding benefits will be attached to the creation of a marine park and the removal of commercial gillnet fishing, which affords a high level of protection and proactive joint management with Yawuru people that has been absent in Roebuck Bay. At least one commercial tourism operator has already used the proposed marine park as part of their branding for this season.

2) Can the Minister advise how the economic benefits to local and tourist recreational fishing of creating marine sanctuaries that has been observed elsewhere in Australia was taken into account in the decision not to include a marine sanctuary zone in the draft Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park?

Answer: A variety of information, including economic benefits was taken into account in developing the zoning scheme for the proposed Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park. Significant and lasting economic and social benefits to recreational fishing by tourists and locals, as well as to customary fishers, are expected outcomes from the complete removal of commercial gillnetting from Roebuck Bay and the establishment of zones of high protection in the marine park.

3) Can the Minister advise what response was given to the tourism operators on this letter prior to the release of the draft Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park?

Answer: 13,489 items of correspondence have been received relating to the Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park. Regrettably, the letter to which you refer was inadvertently overlooked.

4) Is the Minister aware that watching operators have successfully commenced snubfin dolphin tours in Roebuck Bay this year to supplement income in the off season for whales, and that the founders of this new industry support a marine sanctuary zone in Roebuck Bay and made a submission on this (see media article in WA Today from 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015 "Snubfin Dolphins Spark Tidal Wave of Support for Broome Marine Park Plan" <http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/snubfin-dolphins-spark-tidal-wave-of-support-for-broome-marine-park-plan-20151029-gkma7c.html>)?

Answer: Yes.

5) How will the Minister ensure this new information about tourism benefits of a marine sanctuary zone is captured in the final plan for the Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park?

Answer: The information detailed above is consistent with submissions received from tour operators and is being considered, along with other submissions received, to develop the final plan.

6) Does the Minister believe that the interests of Broome's growing ecotourism industry should be reflected in the final Yawuru Nagulagun Marine Park zoning plan?

Answer: Supporting sustainable ecotourism and cultural-tourism are important goals of the proposed marine park and this was reflected in the indicative joint management plan.

7) Can the Minister please advise:

a) What actions the Government has taken to address the concerns of tourism operators?

Answer: A Department of Fisheries vessel, *PV Walcott*, searched the area where the net was alleged to have been located and no evidence of the net or a dead crocodile was found. There are ongoing compliance checks of the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery and other fishers in the area.

b) The value of the gillnet fishery on the Kimberley Coast between Bigge Island and the Cambridge Gulf?

Answer: The most recent public information regarding the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery is for 2014. The estimated Gross Value of Production for the area between Bigge Island and Cambridge Gulf was \$230,000.

c) The value of marine tourism on the Kimberley Coast between Bigge Island and the Cambridge Gulf?

Answer: The value has not been quantified.