

FISHERIES — SHARK FIN

647. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to moves to ban the sale of food containing shark fin, with possible fines rising to \$250 000, and the Australian practice of using the whole fish upon catching.

- (1) How many sharks are estimated to be processed annually in Western Australia?
- (2) How many kilograms of shark fins were exported from WA in the past five years?
- (3) What is the estimated economic value of the shark industry to the state?
- (4) How many kilos of fin will be wasted if only the trunk can be processed?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Fisheries. For clarity, the proposal the member refers to has been put forward by the Greens WA, not by the government.

- (1) Approximately 936 tonnes of shark were taken in 2016–17.
- (2) Information regarding the export of fish products sourced from Western Australian fisheries is not maintained by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. This is a matter best addressed to the commonwealth government.
- (3) I am not aware of any study into the economic value of the shark industry to the state.
- (4) I am unable to speculate on the implications of the Greens WA proposal were it to ever be implemented.