

WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY — REFORM

206. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the minister's ham-fisted attempt to nationalise the crayfishing industry and the subsequent spin — Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, the minister cannot hear the question.

Mr J.E. McGrath: I can't hear it either and I'm right alongside him.

The SPEAKER: Get a hearing aid.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Start again?

The SPEAKER: Yes, start again, member.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: I refer to the minister's ham-fisted attempt to nationalise the crayfishing industry and the subsequent spin that it was all about ensuring more crayfish for Western Australians. Will the minister guarantee that all the additional quota allocated to the Western Australian market will be available only for Western Australians; and, if not, why not?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

I thank the member for the question. As the member knows, we reached an in-principle agreement with the industry that will see up to 315 tonnes made available for domestic lobster supply. That will go towards supplying locals, whether it be through restaurants, a lobster festival or an enhancement of the existing Local Lobster program. The member would, or should, be aware that we are currently working through the details of how the program will work with representatives from the lobster industry. We have had discussions with the fishers and the processors. We are also having discussions with representatives from the restaurant industry and the broader hospitality industry. How that process will work and the details will be subject, hopefully, to a successful conclusion of those discussions with industry. When we conclude those discussions, the member will be one of the first people to know the outcome.