

WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH RESOURCE

**824. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Fisheries:**

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister guarantee that the concerns of the whole fishing sector will be taken into account and that he will cease contemplating the nine-month closure of the recreational fishing sector?

**Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:**

I can confirm that the sustainability of the demersal scalefish resource is paramount to all stakeholders and all sectors. The member would appreciate that there is an incredible diversity of view within the fishing community about what should happen, but we make decisions based on science and research. We do not come in here looking for the latest issue out of the community or the paper to capitalise on; we look at the science. Members opposite come in here and repeatedly attack the Minister for Health and the Minister for Housing and they do not look at the evidence. We look at the evidence and the science that underpins our decision-making and we make considered decisions.