

ENVIRONMENT — DOLPHINS — MONKEY MIA

2808. Hon Diane Evers to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Australian National Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin watching 2017, and the proposal to recruit replacement dolphins into the Monkey Mia feeding program, and I ask:

- (a) has a risk assessment been undertaken by the State in accordance with the guidelines:
 - (i) if yes, will the Minister please table the report;
 - (ii) if no to (i), why not; and
 - (iii) If no to (a), when will a risk assessment be undertaken;
 - (iv) what consultation has been done and with whom on the proposal to recruit replacement dolphins?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

- (a) (i)–(iii) It is not a requirement for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to adhere to the *Australian National Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin Watching 2017*. The assessment of risk is an integral and ongoing component of the dolphin recruitment planning and adaptive management process. There is no formal risk assessment report available.
- (iv) There has been ongoing long-term consultation with marine and dolphin science specialists within, and external to, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to ensure recruitment considers best available science and operates ethically and sustainably.