

CERVANTES - FISHING BOAT FUELLING ARRANGEMENTS

**329. Hon BRUCE DONALDSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:**

Given that a regulated and monitored fuel outlet for fishing vessels exists from a federal/state/community/private investment jetty at Cervantes -

- (1) Did the meeting of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority on 15 February 2007 reach a decision on the fuelling of fishing vessels across the beach at Cervantes, as is presently occurring?
- (2) Does this practice contravene the management order (reserve 31303) issued in favour of the Shire of Dandaragan since 1972 and the shire's local laws?
- (3) Has any permit or exemption been given to those using the alternative fuelling arrangements at Cervantes?
- (4) Will the minister conduct an urgent inquiry into the Cervantes situation, especially in light of potential fuel contamination in a marine park?
- (5) Will the minister also conduct an urgent inquiry into the practice of tarping fishing vessels in the water using liquid chlorine to clean the bottoms of hulls without slipping the vessels, thus creating an environmental risk to seagrass and polluting the beach area?
- (6) If not, why not?

**Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:**

I thank Hon Bruce Donaldson for some notice of this question. The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes. The Chairman of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority wrote to the Shire of Dandaragan on 20 February 2007 advising that the authority did not consider the refuelling of vessels from the beach as a best practice, environmentally sound activity within a marine park.
- (2) The care, control and management of reserve 31303 are the responsibility of the Shire of Dandaragan. The Shire of Dandaragan sought comment from individuals and organisations on the request by Timberlane Nominees to use reserve 31303 for the purpose of refuelling fishing vessels. The shire subsequently declined the request.
- (3) No.
- (4) The Shire of Dandaragan's decision on this matter will be considered by the State Administrative Tribunal on Thursday, 31 May 2007. The minister will consider any further action following consideration by the tribunal.
- (5)-(6) The practice of tarping is not permitted within Western Australian marine parks without lawful authority granted under the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002. The Department of Environment and Conservation is currently liaising with the rock lobster fishing industry to determine the extent of this activity in the marine park.