

FISHERIES — RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCES — AUSTRALIA POST PAYMENTS

3613. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the decision to cease using Australia Post as an outlet for payment of recreational fishing licences in November 2013, and I ask:

- (a) what was the reason for the cessation of Australia Post as a collection agency for recreational fishing licences;
- (b) when did Australia Post become a collection agency for the Department of Fisheries;
- (c) how many recreational fishing license applications were processed by Australia Post as a collection agency for the Department of Fisheries in the following years: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014;
- (d) how many recreational fishing licence applications were processed in Department of Fisheries office locations in the following years: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014;
- (e) how many recreational fishing licence applications were processed online at the Department of Fisheries website in the following years: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014;
- (f) what was the total revenue from recreational fishing licences in each of the following years: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014; and
- (g) what was the cost to the Department of the arrangement with Australia Post to act as a collection agent for recreational fishing licence applications in the following years: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014?

**Dr K.D. Hames replied:**

- (a) The Department of Fisheries (Department) continuously reviews the methods it uses to interact with recreational fishers. It was becoming increasingly apparent that fishers were favouring the use of on-line services for licensing.

The use of on-line licensing services is cost effective and has the benefit of drawing fishers to the Department's website, which has considerable information for recreational fishers.

The Department continues to provide information and licensing services through a number of regional and district locations and through the mail.

- (b) 1997
- (c)–(g) [See tabled paper no 2713.]