

DOLPHINS — KOOMBANA BAY

1450. Hon DIANE EVERS to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) When was the last population study of dolphins inhabiting Bunbury coastal and inland waters, including Koombana Bay, completed and what was the last reported population figure?
- (2) How many bottlenose dolphins from Koombana Bay and surrounds have reportedly died since 2013?
- (3) How many of these deaths have been attributed to boating activities?
- (4) Has the government completed any studies on the impact of human interaction and increased marine traffic from the proposed Koombana Bay marina on the local bottlenose dolphin population; if yes, when were they completed and will the minister please table the relevant reports; and, if no, why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions has advised that the last population study was undertaken over the summer and autumn of 2013 by Murdoch University and was estimated to be 150, adults and juveniles combined.
- (2) Seven bottlenose dolphin deaths from Koombana Bay and surrounds have been reported to DBCA since 2013.
- (3) Based on reports to DBCA, no dolphin deaths since 2013 have been attributed to boat strikes.
- (4) Murdoch University is undertaking research on this subject and is keeping DBCA informed of findings.