

OUTER HARBOUR — COCKBURN SOUND

271. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Fisheries:

I have a supplementary question. As the Minister for Fisheries, will the minister stand up for the recreational and commercial fishing industries and oppose the proposed outer harbour and the 400 hectares of seagrass clearing?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:

What a silly question! The decision-making around fisheries in this state is based on some of the world's best research and applied research undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Those people work professionally and very hard to provide the best advice to get the best balance for both recreational and commercial fishers. That is why we have 95 per cent coverage from the Marine Stewardship Council for the quality of our commercial fisheries. That is why we are the most sustainable in the world, according to the oceanographic institute. We are doing amazing work in that space and we will continue, in all our endeavours, to rely on good research and good science to help inform decision-making.