

ENVIRONMENT — DOLPHINS — KOOMBANA BAY

3334. Hon Diane Evers to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to question without notice 134 asked on 20 February 2020, and the environmental studies being undertaken by the South West Development Commission (SWDC) to support an environmental assessment under part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and I ask:

- (a) have these studies been completed;
- (b) if yes to (a), will the Minister please table them;
- (c) if no to (a), when are they expected to be completed; and
- (d) has the SWDC sought information regarding the health and well being of the dolphins in the Koombana Bay area, including the existing impacts resulting from human activity:
  - (i) if yes to (d), who provided the information; and
  - (ii) if no to (d), why not?

**Hon Alannah MacTiernan replied:**

- (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) The Koombana Bay Strategic Public Environmental Review document and technical reports are anticipated to be finalised for submission to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in mid-2021.
- (d) Yes.

Murdoch University's Cetacean Research Unit provided longitudinal research on the wellbeing of the Koombana Bay dolphin population.

Dolphin Discovery Centre provided data around calving activities within Koombana Bay.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions identified habitat areas in Koombana Bay where dolphins aggregate for resting and breeding opportunities in the warmer months (summer and autumn).

RPS performed an underwater noise modelling assessment to quantify the potential noise impacts on the Koombana Bay dolphin population arising from construction activities.

This information will inform the Koombana Bay Strategic Public Environmental Review.