

**GREENLIP ABALONE — RARE FOODS AUSTRALIA**

*Statement by Minister for Fisheries*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries)** [9.26 am]: Western Australia's credentials for sustainable fisheries have been further enhanced with the Rare Foods Australia Flinders Bay hatch-and-catch fishery for greenlip abalone earning the Marine Stewardship Council's tick of approval for certified sustainable seafood. On World Oceans Day, Wednesday, 8 June, I joined representatives from the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council, the Marine Stewardship Council and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to celebrate Rare Foods Australia becoming WA's twelfth fishery to achieve MSC certification. The state government has supported Rare Foods Australia to become the first Western Australian aquaculture venture to be Marine Stewardship Council certified as a hatch-and-catch enhanced bivalve fishery.

In 2009, the operators began trials of ocean ranching for abalone, which led to the creation of deployable Abitat reefs that are then allowed to colonise with algae so that they can be stocked with hatchery-raised juvenile abalone for growing in the ocean, with little interference and no supplemental feeding. Rare Foods Australia operates in Flinders Bay near Augusta, and in 2020–21, the company supplied 75.9 tonnes of premium greenlip abalone to markets in Australia, Europe and Asia. Achieving MSC certification has the effect of increasing the marketability of goods produced by certified operators and it is also an independent recognition of the government's effectiveness in the sustainable management of its fisheries and the aquaculture industry. This new Marine Stewardship Council tick of approval for Rare Foods Australia highlights not only Western Australia's commitment to sustainable fisheries, but also what can be achieved through innovation.

I have met RFA's executive, Brad Adams, on a number of occasions since becoming Minister for Fisheries and, indeed, I previously met with his late father, Terry Adams. The family's commitment to developing sustainable aquaculture operations in WA is outstanding. By supporting the growth of WA's aquaculture industry, the McGowan government is supporting key initiatives to help diversify regional economies and boost employment opportunities and economic development in regional coastal communities.