

FISH KILL RESPONSE PLAN — COCKBURN SOUND

146. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

Following the Cockburn Sound fish kill, including the iconic pink snapper in late 2015, a multi-agency fish kill response plan was to be developed to improve responses to and management of future fish kill events.

- (1) Can the minister therefore advise has the response plan for fish kills been finalised?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
 - (a) has the plan for fish kills been implemented;
 - (b) is the plan publicly available; and
 - (c) what is the level of stakeholder support?
- (3) If no to (1) —
 - (a) given that 17 months have elapsed, why not; and
 - (b) when is the plan expected to be finalised?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

The Minister for Fisheries has provided me with the following answer —

- (1)–(2) (a)–(c) I am advised that the Department of Fisheries' incident management plan has been significantly updated since the 2015 Cockburn Sound fish kill event. Changes include improved reporting and investigation procedures; clear checklists of roles and responsibilities; an extended stakeholder communication list; and, a dedicated communications plan to enable the more effective dissemination of information to the public.

The plan is not yet publicly available. However, I am advised that stakeholders were widely consulted during the Cockburn Sound fish kill debrief and were supportive of the improvements outlined above. The plan has been successfully used in responses led by the Department of Fisheries to significant fish kill events since 2015, including an event in Broome in March 2016.
- (3) (a)–(b) Not applicable.