

WHALE CARCASS — WYADUP ROCKS

786. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Fisheries:

I have a supplementary question. In light of the minister's comments, what consideration was given to the public safety of ocean users broadly and the surfers at the World Surf League Cape Naturaliste Pro surf series, which is taking place this week, close to the whale carcass that is still decomposing at Wyadup Rocks?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

I am not the Minister for Sport and Recreation or the Minister for Tourism. All I can say is that the whale carcass has been there for a long time. The decision has been made that the only practical course of action is to allow nature to take its course. I have met with Surfing WA a number of times. It manages those events and makes the decisions. I am not the minister for surfing, but my understanding is that it decides whether the conditions are suitable for it to conduct its competition. If the opposition could come up with a better way of dealing with these whale carcasses, it would have done it in eight and a half years in government. There are lots of wild ideas. People talk about blowing it up. The member should YouTube blowing up whale carcasses; there is some great footage.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mr D.J. KELLY: What is that, member for Scarborough?

Mrs L.M. Harvey: You reduced the number of fisheries officers so they could not deal with the whale carcasses. That is what you did.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.J. KELLY: Please! I suggest that if anyone is interested, they should YouTube blowing up whale carcasses, and there are some great examples of people who have done really foolish things with whale carcasses. We are managing it as best we can. It is up to Surfing WA. Presumably, it is in charge of that particular competition that the member is talking about. We provide a lot of assistance to the surfing community for those competitions on request and we will continue to do so.

The SPEAKER: That is the end of question time.