

RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE FEES

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

I refer to the state government raising recreational fishing licence fees by \$5 in last week's budget, the second time in 12 months.

- (1) Did the state government consult with Recfishwest prior to the \$5 licence fee increase across all licence categories?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Why was another recreational fishing licence fee increase necessary when WA was already paying the highest recreational fishing fees in the country?
- (4) Were any other revenue raising options in the sector considered before recreational fishing licence fees were increased for a second time?
- (5) What was the cost of managing WA recreational fishing in 2017?
- (6) How much revenue was raised by the 2017 recreational fishing licence fee increase?
- (7) Will the increase in fees be accompanied by an increase in service provided to WA recreational fishers?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The Minister for Fisheries has provided the following answer.

- (1)–(2) Budget matters are cabinet-in-confidence and announced by the Treasurer through the budget speech.
- (3) The fee increase was necessary to ensure that recreational fishers in WA continue to have access to a world-class, sustainably managed resource. There will be no further increase to fishing licence fees over this term of government. WA recreational fishers do not pay the highest licence fees in the country. Unlike Victoria, WA does not require a licence for line fishing off the beach or coastal jetties. Recreational fishing licence fee revenue in 2016–17 covered less than half the cost of managing recreational fishing in Western Australia.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) In the 2016–17 financial year, the expenditure on recreational fishing was \$17.5 million.
- (6) It is estimated that the \$5 fee increase in July last year has resulted in an additional \$600 000 increase in revenue.