

GASCOYNE DEMERSAL SCALEFISH FISHERY

**59. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for Fisheries:**

I ask a supplementary question. Why has the minister failed to consult with the local community, given that his decision to ban demersal fishing in the Gascoyne will kill tourism businesses and cost jobs in the Gascoyne?

**Mr D.J. KELLY replied:**

I do not think the member has listened to the answer that I gave him. A proposal has been circulated among a working group that has been set up to —

**Mr V.A. Catania:** To ban fishing for three to four months a year.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** There are stock concerns. A working group has been set up to look at management measures that could be put in place to deal with those issues. As the member should be aware, there is no future in fishing for anyone, whether it be recreational fishers or commercial fishers, unless stocks are managed sustainably. That is the principal objective in the management of any fishery. When the member was in government, people on the member's side and the minister said that they were very proud of the fact that fisheries were managed sustainably. So I really do not understand why the member would come into this place and make such ridiculous assertions about proposals that are being discussed with a working group. No final decision has been made.

**Mr V.A. Catania:** Who is on the working group?

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Just listen to the answer. I am quite happy to get the department to arrange a briefing for you if that is what you want.