

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE — WHALE CARCASS

872. Mr D.J. KELLY to the Minister for Environment:

I have a supplementary question. Will the government reimburse the City of Stirling for the cost of removal of the first whale carcass?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

Again, that is completely unrelated to the original question. I am happy to address that question as it relates to me as Minister for Environment. Obviously, that particular whale did not arrive within the Marmion Marine Park area, so it does not relate specifically to my portfolio. However, I will use the example of a previous whale that indeed was reported on —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr A.P. JACOB: We have seen an increasing number of whale carcasses coming up onto Perth beaches in recent years. A good recent example is the one that arrived on Whitfords Beach earlier this year or late last year, if I recall. The City of Joondalup in that instance took the first-responder position of removing that particular whale; however, the Department of Parks and Wildlife provided extensive support for that removal. The Department of Parks and Wildlife provided expertise. The Department of Parks and Wildlife actually —

Mr W.J. Johnston: Answer the question, you moron! Come on!

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the second time. I think that term was unparliamentary. Withdraw it, please.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I withdraw.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr A.P. JACOB: The short answer is that that particular jurisdiction is not within the Department of Parks and Wildlife. However, the question was asked of me and I am trying to explain what we will do and what we have done historically. A good example of that is the whale that did arrive within a marine park on Whitfords Beach and we provided assistance and expertise to the City of Joondalup. Where this current whale, which arrived on Scarborough Beach, has landed within my portfolio area, which is in and around the waste levy, yes, that will be reimbursed to the City of Stirling.