

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

442. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the government's media statement of November 2020 announcing the aquaculture development plan, which the former minister claimed will support "WA's aquaculture industry and assist local operators in taking advantage of the rising global demand for quality seafood", unlocking thousands of local jobs. Can the minister explain why current licence holders are now required to pay fees, increased from \$365 to \$20 000, an increase of \$19 635, or, in simpler terms, more than 54 times the original amount?

Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:

I am shocked. I have been asked a question about fisheries!

Mr W.J. Johnston: Is this the first one?

Mr D.T. PUNCH: No, it is the second one.

Mr V.A. Catania: No, what about in the upper house?

Mr D.T. PUNCH: There was one in the upper house, too, yes.

Thank you for the question. The aquatic resource management plans that we have in place for aquaculture are far-reaching. I am not familiar with the particular increases that the member has identified. I would have appreciated some advice and notice on that. I am not sure about their accuracy. The member needs to give me some further detail on those and in advance. I am very pleased about the work that we are doing in aquaculture and the work that is happening right across the board to bring the aquaculture development plan to fruition. Members will hear more about that shortly.