

FISHING LICENCES AND FEES

Petition

MR T.G. STEPHENS (Pilbara) [3.10 pm]: I table the following petition, which is the first of a batch of petitions on the same topic that are coming from the Pilbara —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned residents of Western Australia are opposed to the Minister for Fisheries proposed introduction of unfair and irrational amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* applying new recreational fishing licences and fees, as well as increases to existing fees. We do not believe that they will protect Western Australia's vulnerable fish species and appear to apply fees in excess of related services and therefore constitute a tax.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully ask the Legislative Assembly to call upon the Barnett Liberal-National State Government to oppose the introduction of these licences and fees.

This batch of signatures totals 154. I have certified that the petition complies with the requirements of the house.

[See petition 127.]

Petition

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie-Preston) [3.11 pm]: I have a petition along the same lines. The petition complies with standing orders and contains 554 signatures —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned say; that we believe the recently announced Fishing Licence Fees are unfair, discriminatory and unfairly target the family unit.

Whilst conceding that measures had to be taken to preserve fish stocks in WA, recent increases to costs associated with recreational fishing will make the one-time family recreation just too expensive for many people.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly that the Minister look at alternative methods such as stricter bag limits, increased research and seasonal restrictions to conserve West Coast Demersal fish stocks.

[See petition 122.]