

ILLEGAL FISHING — NIIWALARRA

939. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to an ABC report on 29 August referring to recent reports of the establishment of a camp by illegal fishers from Indonesia on Niiwalarra—Sir Graham Moore Island—which is within our state's North Kimberley Marine Park.

- (1) When did the minister become aware of the reported incursions?
- (2) Has the minister deployed additional resources to the Kimberley region; and —
 - (a) if not, why not?
 - (b) if yes, what are these?
- (3) What representations or arrangements have been made with the commonwealth since the reported incursion to increase collaboration between deployed resources of the state and commonwealth?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The question was asked on 21 September so the answer is current as at that date.

- (1) The Minister for Environment's office was made aware of this matter following a media inquiry on Thursday, 25 August 2022.
- (2) The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is currently on patrol in the North Kimberley Marine Park. This routine patrol commenced on 19 September 2022 and will visit Niiwalarra—Sir Graham Moore Island. A primary task of this patrol includes the removal and disposal of material and rubbish associated with unlawful camping that has occurred on the island.
- (3) The Department of Home Affairs, Australian Border Force, through the Maritime Border Command, is the lead agency for dealing with foreign fishing vessel activities. DBCA's Kimberley region staff are actively involved in interagency collaboration through response planning and joint patrols with commonwealth and other state government departments operating in the Kimberley region.