

WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH RESOURCE

**725. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries:**

I refer to the potential nine-month ban to be imposed annually on recreational fishers to manage stocks of demersal scalefish in the west coast bioregion.

- (1) Has the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development met with the Westport Taskforce to discuss the potential impact of the outer harbour development on demersal species in Cockburn Sound?
- (2) If yes to (1), when did those meetings occur?
- (3) What were the outcomes of those meetings?

**Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Fisheries.

- (1) DPIRD aquatic science and assessment staff have been fully engaged with the Westport project since late 2018, providing expert scientific advice on fish and fisheries in Cockburn Sound, including demersal species. Input to the Westport project has included DPIRD taking a lead role in development of the Westport–Western Australian Marine Science Institution marine science program, including leading the fisheries and aquatic resources theme.
- (2) DPIRD has been represented on the Westport Environmental and Social Program Steering Committee and Coordinating Committee bimonthly since 2020. DPIRD is also represented on the Westport-WAMSI senior leadership team that has oversight of over 30 projects currently underway in Cockburn Sound.
- (3) Environmental studies in Cockburn Sound are currently underway, including several projects being led by DPIRD investigating potential effects of port development and operation on pink snapper and other key fisheries species.