

FISHERIES — PFAS CONTAMINATION

**772. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries:**

I refer to the *Waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy 2030*, noting the vision that Western Australia will become a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste.

- (1) Given that PFAS is leaching from operational and non-operational landfills very close to the ocean, as well as being found at Herschel Lake on Rottnest Island, how is the public made aware of the presence of PFAS in recreational waters where recreational fishing is conducted?
- (2) Is the department of fisheries catching and testing low and high-order predator fish in coastal areas, rivers, and lakes to test if PFAS is present, given that it can bio-accumulate and biomagnify in some fish?
- (3) If no to (2), are there any systems in place to measure PFAS levels in fish caught and eaten by recreational fishers in WA?

**Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:**

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

- (1) The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is the lead agency in managing PFAS issues in Western Australia. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development will support DWER in communicating with relevant stakeholders should PFAS issues be identified in Western Australian waters. DPIRD is not currently aware of PFAS issues in Western Australian waters that would require action.
- (2)–(3) No. Western Australia does support national testing of seafood to support commercial fishing and market access. DPIRD would work with DWER to respond appropriately where elevated levels of PFAS are detected in the marine environment.