

SOUTH COAST MARINE PARK

**878. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:**

I also welcome Louise and Sophie from NOFASD Australia, and Sally.

I refer to the fraught planning process for the south coast marine park and the apparent absence of constructive dialogue between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on the draft indicative management plan for the park since June 2023. Is the relationship between DPIRD and DBCA so broken on this matter that the Premier's office has had to step in and attempt to fix the mess created by this dysfunctional process?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

The answer for the member is no. We know that an important part of my government's agenda is to grow the number of national parks and marine parks right across this state so that we can preserve this great state for not only our enjoyment but also enjoyment for many years to come so that our kids, who might be going to Mullaloo Primary School, or their kids when they grow up, will have pristine environments to enjoy. At the same time, when it comes to marine parks, they will know that there are places where our fish stocks are continuing to be regenerated so that people can enjoy recreational fishing and companies can enjoy commercial fishing in years to come. It is about a sustainability agenda. It is an important part of how we steward this great state of ours. In that process we are walking a delicate path of understanding the conflicts that may occur between conservation, recreation, commercial fishing and other people who will draw upon the amenity of these marine parks. They are represented and indeed there are passionate views represented by community groups. That is the reason why we have taken such a careful and important consultation process to find our way along that path.

The public sector has a range of views. It is a wide school. It is a school of ideas, providing us as government with great policy opportunities, and providing us with advice on how we can implement our policies. It is not surprising that from time to time there is robust debate about the best way forward. I respect that and I like it. I think it is an important part.

**Mr R.R. Whitby** interjected.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** As the honourable minister said, it is a sign that the system is actually working.

**Mr R.S. Love:** So, there is argument and disagreement?

**Mr R.H. COOK:** Of course there is disagreement. At the end of the day, it is the role of government to adjudicate around those ideas, find our way through that policy advice and make a policy decision that takes the state forward. That is what we are doing.