

SURF-LIFESAVERS, INCONSISTENT LAWS

513. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is the minister aware of the inconsistency between local council laws and the Local Government Act for surf-lifesavers to keep swimmers safe and, if need be, close beaches?
- (2) Is he aware that surf-lifesavers do not have any power to act midweek under current laws?
- (3) In light of the recent shark fatality, will the minister outline what he plans to do to address the weakness in the laws to address this problem and to ensure that powers for surf-lifesavers to keep swimmers safe are consistent between local councils?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) The laws regulating bathing are included in local government local laws. Local governments have very wide powers under the Local Government Act 1995 to make laws authorising employees or other persons to enforce laws. If there are apparent deficiencies, then the surf-lifesavers need to raise those issues with the relevant local governments, which have the power to remedy the problem.