

LOBSTER INDUSTRY

**310. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:**

With regard to the lobster industry's participation in Cowaramup, Gnarabup and Hamelin Bay and the fact that no pots have been set in these bays violating the voluntary code of practice I ask -

- (1) Does the minister intend to issue section 43 notices to exclude lobster fishermen from these areas?
- (2) What does the minister intend to achieve by the closure?
- (3) Did the minister receive advice from the full Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Council for the closure to proceed?
- (4) What consultation with fishermen took place?
- (5) What Department of Fisheries industry resources are available to fund these resources to maintain the closure as a result of the minister's decision?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I thank Hon Murray Criddle for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes, I am.
- (2) The implementation of a section 43 order will provide important legislative backing to the Western Rock Lobster Council Inc's voluntary code of conduct, which is aimed at reducing conflict between the cape's community and the commercial fishery, and particularly to allay concerns about the safety of recreational users in the waters of those three named bays.
- (3) I have received advice from the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee on this matter over many months and today sent a letter to each committee member seeking his or her comment on this proposal. I expect to have the committee members' individual comments by the end of this week.
- (4) I have consulted the Western Rock Lobster Council - the peak industry body - on this matter.
- (5) This measure will not place a burden on the Department of Fisheries compliance program with compliance activities to be undertaken as core business. Furthermore, the fact that this measure has the support of the Western Rock Lobster Council in accordance with its code should promote a high level of compliance.