

Mr Fran Logan; Mr Gary Snook; Mr Troy Buswell; Chairman; Mr Mick Murray; Mr John Hyde; Mrs Carol Martin; Mr Bob Kucera

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**Division 59: Fisheries, \$29 431 000 —**

Mr A.P. O’Gorman, Chairman.

Mr F.M. Logan, Minister for Energy representing the Minister for Fisheries.

Mr P.J. Millington, Chief Executive Officer.

Mr B. Mezzatesta, Director, Corporate Services.

Dr R.C. Lenanton, Senior Principal Research Scientist.

Mr G. Paust, Director, Fisheries Management Services.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The minister.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I have a brief introductory statement by the department. This budget once again demonstrates the government’s commitment to the conservation of the Western Australian marine environment in ensuring the sustainability of the state’s fisheries. The 2008-09 budget includes significant increased allocations to support both the acquisition of information and compliance activities to underpin fisheries management. An allocation of \$1.3 million per annum has been provided for research and monitoring of demersal scalefish catches by recreational and commercial fishers. This research will evaluate the effectiveness of the management practices to rebuild these fish stocks. The compliance activities of the Department of Fisheries have been enhanced by an amount approaching \$8 million over the period of forward estimates. This funding commitment has been made in recognition of the increasing fishing pressure of commercial and recreational fishers targeting inshore finfish stocks. Recreational fishing boat numbers are also growing rapidly. There is an urgent need to manage these fish stocks to ensure that the harvest is shared equitably and that there is no risk to stock sustainability. The second stage of the management arrangements for the commercial sector will come into effect on 1 January 2009. These arrangements will limit the total fishing time available to that sector and, thus, its potential catch. The Minister for Fisheries, Hon Jon Ford, MLC, has advised me that he expects to announce his decisions in response to the recent review of the recreational fishing sector in the next few weeks. The department is recognised as a world leader in sustainably managing fish stocks. Other funding in this budget will allow the department to maintain this leadership role and ensure equitable access to the state’s fish resources.

**Mr G. SNOOK:** I refer to page 988. In the minister’s opening address, he referred to an allocation of money for management. I think he mentioned a couple of adjustment figures. In the table on page 988, the second-last line item under “Cost of Services” is for the fisheries adjustment scheme. This year’s estimate is \$2.802 million and then it drops off substantially in the forward estimates to only \$500 000. Some time ago the Minister for Fisheries made a public statement that—correct me if I am wrong—\$7 million would be available to commercial wetliners who, in his words, fell through the cracks when complying with the criteria to obtain units to continue in the wetline fishery along the west coast in my region. Where is the adjustment or compensation money that the minister referred to in his statement? I think it was \$7 million.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** It is \$7.6 million.

**Mr G. SNOOK:** Can the minister point out where that money is in this mix of figures, because it will be needed from this year on?

[9.20 pm]

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The point the member for Moore is referring to is the announcement of a \$7.6 million compensation package that will be available to commercial fishers affected by the closure to provide some financial recompense for the loss of access to by-licence fishers affected by the new management scheme arrangements. I will ask Mr Mezzatesta to comment on where this is allocated in the budget estimates.

**Mr B. Mezzatesta:** The member pointed out the line where that money appears. Traditionally, the department has had an amount of \$500 000 per annum set aside through the adjustment schemes. The member will see that in the first year in the budget papers we expended \$345 000 initially, from memory. In the next year it goes up to \$5.7 million, of which \$5.2 million relates to the adjustments that we were referring to in the wetline sector. There are also some issues associated with the closure of the metropolitan zone of the commercial fishery. In the subsequent year, \$2.3 million of the \$2.8 million relates to that very scheme. The minister therefore actually has an aggregate of \$7.6 million to meet the obligations that he has identified against the various adjustments that he has made to fisheries; that is, wetline, metropolitan closure and other fisheries.

**Mr G. SNOOK:** I thank the adviser through the minister for that information, and I understand it. Can the minister detail whether all the applications that fishermen have put in for compensation have been met under that allocation or are there fishermen, for whatever reason, who have not complied with the rules for compensation or

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who feel aggrieved that they have not been compensated in a fair and reasonable way? In other words, does the allocation cover all applicants or are there people who have been considered ineligible?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I was just talking to Mr Millington about that and I will ask him to provide a far more detailed explanation than I could.

**Mr P.J. Millington:** We are still in the process of getting this finalised. The amounts are subject to some act-of-grace payments for the metropolitan closure in particular. We cannot use the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act due to its vagaries, as we cannot pay for the surrender of an entitlement that was never issued. Therefore, compensation is by way of an act-of-grace payment, and the applications are currently in the final stages of development. Letters should be going out in the next few weeks, I hope, making an offer to people who have made application. The other part of the scheme is subject to a voluntary fisheries adjustment scheme process. The committee of advice has given its advice to the minister and the schemes are in the process of being established. People will then be asked to formally make submissions. We obviously know who they are, and there has been correspondence back and forward to prepare for that process. However, I expect the entire process to be over for the bulk of the fishermen in the next 12 weeks or so. We envisage that the amount set aside should meet the expenses identified. If it does not quite meet them, we will be allocating some of that ongoing \$500 000 that we have pointed out in the budget to try to meet the shortfall.

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** I refer to the major initiatives for 2008-09 on page 985. The fourth dot point refers to a very exciting innovative study to assess the detailed movement and behavioural characteristics of sharks through the use of acoustic tags etc. As I understand it, the minister has already implemented a reduction in shark take, his logic for that being to cater for decreasing numbers. Does the minister not already have information on the movement, behaviour and breeding times of certain areas of sharks in Western Australian waters? That, of course, would be the scientific data on which we would have expected the Minister for Fisheries to have based his decision to reduce the days on which shark fishermen are allowed to fish. What is the purpose of that study, given that the minister has already made that decision?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** This issue did come up, members will recall, by way of a private member's motion or a matter of public interest.

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** It is an important issue; that is why it comes up.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** No. I am asking why it came up. I think it was by way of an MPI.

**Mr G. SNOOK:** It was a motion to disallow regulations 3 and 10.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** It was a disallowance motion; I thank the member for Moore. We had a discussion about the impact on the shark fishery, although members may recall that during the debate we were talking about the specific types of sharks. I am advised that this study is not to deal with those sharks; it is to deal with the movement, habits and numbers of great white sharks that are around our coastline.

**Mr G. SNOOK:** Easy going in Albany!

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** What is the benefit of that?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Members!

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Member for Vasse, we are looking for volunteers to attach the tags!

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** Notwithstanding the recent attack in Albany and other attacks on the south coast and other areas, and given that the vast majority of sharks in Western Australian waters are not white sharks but are other sharks, what is the purpose of this study?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I am advised that the department has tagged other sharks as well.

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** The minister just said that it was for white sharks.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Member!

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** The minister cannot have his fangs and eat them!

**The CHAIRMAN:** The member also cannot keep asking questions across the chamber; he must seek the call for a further question.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I was going to say, Mr Chairman, that this dot point is a specific reference to white sharks. As I pointed out to the member for Vasse, we certainly welcome his input. We are looking for volunteers to attach those tags and we would certainly ask the member for Vasse to volunteer and play a role in attaching those tags to white pointers!

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** Perhaps the minister can use his Prince Albert, his Prince Charles or whatever he calls it!

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**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** That is the content of this report. As I pointed out to the member, there are also tagging exercises for other sharks on the coast.

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** As I understand it, not that I am a great shark fisherman—although my father fished for sharks in Geographe Bay—why would Fisheries be interested in a protected species that fishermen cannot catch?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Good question, Mr Chair. I will pass it over to Mr Millington.

**Mr P.J. Millington:** Since the Ken Crew incident in 1999, the Department of Fisheries has been designated by government as the lead agency for dealing with issues to do with white shark and other shark attacks. We assist the police and also local government, as has been seen recently in Albany, on these issues. We do it by way of running the aerial patrols in the metropolitan area and also providing response activities as required. This monitoring program is putting up a system of acoustic arrays along the metropolitan coast and out to Rottnest Island. It will primarily be used to acoustically monitor fish. At the moment the white shark is the one we are focusing on; however, as and when we can get those tags into other fish, we will be doing so. We therefore have a dual role not only to protect the fish, but also to assist government on a whole-of-government basis on safety issues.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Does the member for Vasse have a further question on this issue?

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** Yes, I am interested to follow up this matter. I want to know how much is being spent on this measure. I am also intrigued that the acoustic monitoring occurs along the metropolitan coast. As I understand it, an acoustic tag is put on a shark—I assume it could be attached anywhere from here to Tasmania—and the monitoring will pick it up along the metropolitan coast. What happens in other areas of the Western Australian coast? I will use an example from Augusta in my electorate where some people go abalone fishing. There have been abalone divers taken. Does the acoustic monitoring extend that far south?

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** The member for Vasse has been sitting around down there too!

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** Does the acoustic monitoring extend that far south, or is it just metropolitan people who will get the acoustic protection from great white sharks?

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** It is where the fish go.

[9.30 pm]

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I am informed that those acoustic devices cost approximately \$14 000 each.

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** How many will be put in?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I will provide further information by way of supplementary information. They were to be connected by CDMA. Unfortunately, that has been switched off. The department is looking at satellite devices to download that information from those acoustic devices in water.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Minister, could you give me the detail of the supplementary information you are going to provide to the member?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The information relates to the fourth dot point on page 985 under the heading “Major Initiatives for 2008-09”. It refers to the tagging exercise for great white sharks. We will also provide the number of acoustic monitors that will be put in place.

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** Could the minister also let us know how many sharks have the tags?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** We will provide a description of the program.

[*Supplementary Information No A17.*]

**Mrs C.A. MARTIN:** I refer to the third dot point on page 979, which refers to the Biosecurity Agriculture Management Act 2007. I am curious about the marine pests, specifically the pests that have plagued the pearling industry recently. What sort of funds have been put aside to deal with this issue?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I will ask Mr Millington to provide some information about oyster disease.

**Mr P.J. Millington:** The disease in question is called oyster oedema disease. We have no information on whether it was introduced into Western Australian waters or is a naturally occurring organism that has just flared up for some reason. It has had an impact on the pearling sector. It has not affected wild stocks, which are fished in the traditional manner off Eighty Mile Beach. Unfortunately, its impact has been on pearl oysters that have been raised in hatcheries and then put out into the wild. Unfortunately, when they go out into the wild, a proportion of them catch this disease and die. In the past year we have been successful in developing a test that allows us to see whether the animals that are asymptomatic have the disease. We are now trying to manage it as a stock management issue as one would with farm stock. We are quarantining farms and testing animals before

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we move them between farms so that we do not further cross-infect populations. Unfortunately, it has had an impact on some of the companies that were highly dependent on hatchery oysters. We are talking through some further measures that we can take with those companies over the next few months to address their problems.

**Mrs C.A. MARTIN:** How many of the pearling leases have been affected? At this stage, what are the implications for the pearling industry in the Kimberley?

**Mr P.J. Millington:** It is fair to say that most of the leases west of Dampier and down to Exmouth Gulf have been infected. Some leases east of that, basically from north Roebuck Bay, have been infected but mostly because of the movement of the infected animals from the western side of the fishery. As far as we can determine, those that have not had shell introduced from the western side of the fishery have not been infected.

**Mrs C.A. MARTIN:** There are two parts to my next question. The first relates to the impact of technology on the hatchery. I know that we have put a lot of resources in, and so has the industry. What are the implications for the hatchery? Second, are the wild stock available through Fisheries? Is Fisheries the only body that can harvest or give licences to take the wild stock that are unaffected?

**Mr P.J. Millington:** To be precise, the major effect has been on the hatchery stock. We have tested the wild stocks and we do not have any definitive indication that they are affected, which is good. We are assisting the companies that are dependent on the hatchery stock by looking at measures to possibly allow an increase in the take of the wild stock. That would allow the market to operate and allow those who were dependent on hatchery stock to obtain additional supplies from the wild stock. That is possible because we were lucky enough to have a greater than average wild stock settlement in 2004, and 2005 looks like being five times greater than any historical recording of catches. We hope that we might be able to help the industry.

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** I take it from Mr Millington's geographical description of where this disease is occurring that is affecting only the *pinctada maxima*?

**Mr P.J. Millington:** That is correct.

**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** I seek some clarification and then I wish to ask a question. I understood that the Fisheries officers said there was a \$7.6 million compensation package for the downturn in the fishing industry. Is that correct?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** This relates to the very first question that the member for Moore asked about compensation for those fishermen affected by the wetline review. The Minister for Fisheries announced a compensation package of \$7.6 million.

**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** Does that relate to the repurchase, or the buyback, of licences?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Yes, it does.

**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** If I could relate the major changes that are likely to occur back to the policies in the timber industry, what is the government doing within that package, if anything, to accommodate the skippers and the crew of those fishing boats? Is there a separate package for retraining similar to the package provided to workers in the timber industry when the government made major changes there?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** We have moved on from that question. We are going back to the first question that was asked. For the benefit of the member for Yokine, the answer is no, we have not provided that.

**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** I cannot hear the minister.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** As I said, the question asked by the member for Yokine is the very first question that we dealt with. We have moved on. For his benefit and to bring this question to a close, the answer to the question is no; the crew was not compensated. I presume that would be part of the package that would be negotiated by the owners of the fishing licence and the vessels in terms of any impact from the wetline review on their fishing activities. I say presume, because I can only presume. It certainly will not be compensated for in the same way as the compensation that was provided under the timber industry review that was undertaken.

[9.40 pm]

**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** That was not my question. My question was: within this process, has a package been planned and put together to accommodate the skippers and the crews, in light of the downturn that has been caused by the change in policy? My understanding from the minister is that the simple answer to that question is no.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** That is right. That is what I said. The answer is no.

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**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** I understand that a considerable number of boats—something like 400 boats—will go out of the industry overall. Would that be correct?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** No; that is not correct. I ask for your advice on this matter, Mr Chairman. What do we do? Do we go back and continue to answer all the questions that were dealt with previously?

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** Do not shun the Independent! That is an outrage!

**The CHAIRMAN:** Does the Leader of the Opposition want to run the committee? I was about to give the advice.

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** Sorry, Mr Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Any member can ask any question. The member for Yokine has asked the question, and it has been answered.

**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** Thank you, Mr Chairman, for your forbearance. I simply wanted to find out what the position is with the skippers and the crews of the fishing boats, who will lose their livelihood. I want to know whether, similar to what was done with the timber industry, the minister has put together a package to assist them to move into other parts of the industry, or, indeed, into other occupations. My understanding is that the answer is no.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The answer is no. However, in providing that information, the estimate that has been suggested by the member for Yokine is wrong. It will not be 400 boats. We do not know the number of boats that will be affected. It will depend on the outcome of the review and the number of people who apply for the compensation package. No-one will know that until such time as those people come forward.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** I refer to page 987. Under the heading “Capital Works Program”, and the later heading “Works in Progress”, there is an allocation of \$1.9 million for large vessel replacement. Can the minister provide some detail on what this new vessel will be used for?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I am advised that this funding will provide for the replacement of the vessel *McLaughlan*. That vessel was built in 1992 as a fast seagoing patrol platform capable of carrying out up to 15 day patrols along the coast of Western Australia. The vessel originally had a planned life of up to 10 years, to 2002. However, that was extended by five years when the vessel was refitted in 2002 at a cost of \$500 000. The replacement vessel is essentially for the management of the west coast rock lobster managed fishery. In future, that vessel will be used as part of the demersal scale fish compliance program. As the member would be aware, because that vessel will be used in the waters in the Geraldton area, it will need to be very seaworthy so that it can travel to remote areas, not only the Abrolhos Islands, but also the edge of the Continental Shelf. It needs to provide the required safety standards for its crew and passengers, and the equipment to lift rock lobster pots. The vessel will be based in Geraldton. Consequently, it will perform the bulk of its activities in the rock lobster industry.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** I refer to page 981. The third dot point under “Major Achievements For 2007-08” states —

Finalised catch allocations for the commercial, recreational and customary fishing sectors for the western rock lobster resource.

What percentage allocations have been made?

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** Does that cover marron?

**Mrs C.A. MARTIN:** Why not grow up! That is a serious question! The Leader of the Opposition’s infantile behaviour is offensive!

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order, member for Kimberley.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Mr Millington is a specialist in this area, so I ask him to provide the answer.

**Mr P.J. Millington:** The minister, working on the advice of his advisory committee, announced some months ago that the allocations would be 95 per cent for the commercial sector and five per cent for the recreational sector. There is a nominal allocation for customary use. The minister has indicated that he will look at that, should that matter become important for the Aboriginal community. There is no specific allocation for the aquaculture sector at present. Those are the current percentage allocations. The minister has now asked his advisory committee to come up with some advice on practical measures about how those allocations can be put into effect, and that inquiry is underway at the moment.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** What was last year’s take for the recreational fishery?

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**Mr P.J. Millington:** To obtain the exact figures I will need to take the question as a supplementary. It was certainly not near five per cent.

**Mr G. SNOOK:** I refer to page 982. The ninth dot point under “Major Initiatives For 2008-09” states —  
Finalise advice to the Minister on the merits and scope of a shift to output controls (quota management) for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.

Following on from the question asked by the member for Collie-Wellington, what will be the allocation if there is a shift to quota management? Will the quota allocation be set at the same percentage as the minister has outlined, or will that be a flexible figure that will move in quantity and allocation per season based on its use as a management tool?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The advice from the committee is expected to be finalised and be with the minister in October this year. I am advised that the percentage that would be recommended would be of the total allowable catch. That is the biological assessment, as opposed to the quota to which the member referred earlier. The total allowable catch will be assessed. Five per cent of the total allowable catch will be allocated to recreational fishers, and the remainder will be available to commercial fishers.

**Mr G. SNOOK:** The minister is saying that this will be done prior to consideration of a shift to output controls; that is, a quota system. The minister said that that matter is still under consideration. However, the minister has also talked about a total allowable catch. Currently, as the minister knows, there is no set total allowable catch; it is a seasonal catch with input controls. I am not quite clear what the minister is referring to when he says “come October”.

[9.50 pm]

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Does the member want to know what the total allowable catch will be?

**Mr G. SNOOK:** Yes.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I ask Mr Millington to provide further information.

**Mr P.J. Millington:** There were some questions nested within that question. I will clarify what the member asked. The first question was: when will the minister receive advice on whether the fishery should move to an output-control system? The minister will get that preliminary advice from his advisory committee in October. The second question was: when will it be put in place should the minister adopt that advice? That is an operational matter and it might take one or two years to put all the elements in place. If an output-control system is adopted, as the minister indicated to the member in the previous answer, the formulas would be as indicated. If the minister determines to stay within an input-control system, the other advisory committee that is advising the minister on the allocation mechanism, and which has now been given the task of looking at the management measures for that allocation, will give the minister advice on how over a three to five-year period the catch of the two sectors can be averaged on a 95 to five ratio. Because of fluctuations from year to year, it will never be precisely a 95 to five ratio in each year when there is an input-controlled system based just on pots. There will only be that level of precision under a quota system.

**Mr G. SNOOK:** Is the five per cent allocation that is determined by the minister based on science and research? Are they accurate figures, or is it a figure that the minister thought was fair and reasonable?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I am advised that the five per cent figure was determined on the basis of advice given to the committee based on history and its own advice on what is fair and equitable. It was not based on scientific grounds, as the member suggested it might be.

**Mr G. SNOOK:** Will any effort reduction that is required to maintain the sustainability of the lobster stocks be a pro rata reduction of effort in both the five per cent and the 95 per cent parallel in a decision-making process?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I am advised by Mr Millington that that is the way it would be determined in principle. However, in practice we must see how it will occur.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I remind members that it is 9.55 pm and we will finish all the divisions from 59 to 62 dead on 10.00 pm. I ask members to keep their questions relatively short.

**Mrs C.A. MARTIN:** I refer to the sixth line item under “Completed Works” on page 987 of the *Budget Statements*. Was the patrol vessel *PV Walcott* purchased for the protection of the fishing industry in the Kimberley from foreign incursions? Is the vessel part of the local patrol? The Kimberley already has the Bardi community marine patrol. Was the *Walcott* purchased for that patrol? Neither the Indigenous fishing fund nor the Indigenous fishing strategy appear to be in this allocation. Where are they on the list of important things to get done?

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**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The *PV Walcott* is primarily engaged in the enforcement, control and regulation of the pearling industry and of the north coast fisheries. It is not used for border security because, as the member knows, that is a commonwealth responsibility. The Department of Fisheries is not involved in that whatsoever. I ask Mr Millington to answer the question about the Indigenous fishing strategy.

**Mr P.J. Millington:** The major elements of the Indigenous fishing strategy have been finalised. The strategy now awaits a government decision about the level of funding that the government wishes to provide for it.

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** I refer to the seventh dot point on page 984 of the *Budget Statements* that states —

Upgrade compliance surveillance capacity to improve detection and apprehension of serious and organised black-market offenders.

This initiative has received a slight increase in funding. Does it cover overseas illegal fishing activities in the north? Given that the commonwealth government is looking at slashing our commitment to surveillance, how will that impact on our resource management plans? What resources does the minister intend to allocate to cover the shortfall, particularly given the potential slashing of surveillance funding by the commonwealth government?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Which of those five questions would the Leader of the Opposition like answered?

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** All of the above. The minister is very efficient because when he does not know much, he cannot say much when he answers the question.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I cannot answer for the commonwealth government's responsibility for border security, patrol and protection. As I indicated in the previous question, the Department of Fisheries does not act on, for or on behalf of the commonwealth government regarding any of those activities. The objective of the upgrade is to increase the capacity to detect and investigate illegal fish catches and sales, including wholesalers, retailers and restaurants involved in the black-market fish trade. Two additional investigators and an intelligence officer will be provided for the department's serious offences unit. Additional funding will enable forensic auditors and computer analysts to be contracted to facilitate the auditing of suspected black-market operations. The new statewide wholesale-retail inspection unit will also provide key support.

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** That has nothing to do with illegal fishing in the north; it is to do with the poaching of abalone and such things in the south of the state.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** As the member indicated, it has nothing to do with illegal fishing in the north but I never raised that issue; I just pointed out that it relates to the illegal taking of fish catches and particularly the sale of those fish catches to wholesalers, retailers and restaurants. We have seen that occur in the past.

**Mr T. BUSWELL:** That is illegal fishing.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** It is an illegal fish take without a licence and the sale of that take without a licence. Does Mr Millington have some examples of that?

**Mr P.J. Millington:** The matter of the northern illegal fishing is covered in the federal budget. I can assist the Leader of the Opposition by pointing him to a website that shows an analysis of the commonwealth funding, if he wishes. We expect that as a result of the successive clamping down of management in the wet line and other fisheries, there will be a rise in illegal activity, hence the funding of these additional, new positions. Finfish prices have increased to \$50 a kilogram as a result of demand; therefore, the incentive to break the law has also risen.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The time is now 10.00 pm.

**The appropriation was recommended.**