

DOLPHIN DISCOVERY CENTRE

112. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the recent news on the ABC that the Dolphin Discovery Centre in Bunbury is going into voluntary administration due to several challenges relating to rising supply costs, staff shortages and the effects of COVID-19. I note that the high value of the centre for the state related to it being a conservation-focused aquarium, which is one of only two places in WA licensed to hold public feedings of wild dolphins and one of Bunbury's main major tourism attractions.

- (1) Does the government have a plan to help the centre stay open?
- (2) Will the government provide funding to help the centre stay open?
- (3) If no to (2), will the government provide some other kind of support?

Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Regional Development.

- (1)–(3) The state government is working with the appointed administrators, RSM Australia, to develop an approach to ensure that the Dolphin Discovery Centre remains open and viable. It is too early in the process to determine whether government support will be required, but the state government recognises the tremendous value of the Dolphin Discovery Centre to the local community and to the tourism economy in the Bunbury area.