

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C793

## QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Thursday, 31 October 2013

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment.

I refer to Question Without Notice 751, and I ask:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the studies carried out by the Centre for Whale Research here in WA that show increased vessel traffic in humpback whales resting areas is likely to result in whale displacement near areas immediately associated with ships?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), will the Minister assess the impact of marine access points and Marinas in the Exmouth Gulf on the migratory whale population?
- (4) If no to (1), why not?

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**I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.**

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response.

- (1) I am advised by my departments that studies carried out by the Centre for Whale Research are considered by the Environmental Protection Authority during the environmental impact assessment of maritime developments.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Environmental Protection Authority is not currently assessing any strategic proposals and/or significant proposals in Exmouth Gulf which have the potential to impact on whales.
- (4) See response to 3.

