

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 12 September 2017

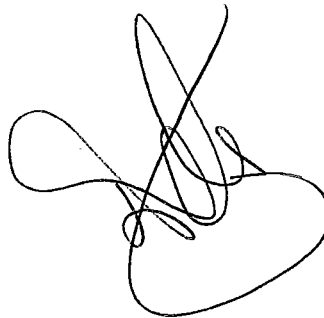
C598. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries

1. How large is the commercial gillnet exclusion zone around Derby?
2. What impact has commercial gillnet fishing had on Barramundi stocks in the region?
3. Will the Government consider reviewing the commercial gillnet exclusion zone, to ensure local recreational fishing tourism businesses are able to meet client's expectation?

Answer

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

1. The exclusion zone around Derby covers a 4 nautical mile radius from the Derby Jetty. Gillnet fishing is also prohibited in the nearby Fitzroy River south of 17° 27' south latitude.
2. Commercial gillnet fishing in the Kimberley has been formally managed since 1989. The Kimberley barramundi resource is considered sustainable and there is no evidence of a decline in barramundi stocks.
3. I have requested that the Fisheries Division of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) work with peak sector bodies, WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and ReefishWest, to resolve this outstanding issue as a priority.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.