

Legislative Council Question taken on Notice

ASKED BY: Hon Meg Webb MLC, Independent Member for Nelson, Thursday 9th November

ANSWER:

Mr President with your indulgence I would like to provide information that I undertook to provide the member for Nelson in response to her question on Thursday 9th November.

Her question was as follows:

Regarding the Marine Farming License and the Environmental License for lease number 55 in Long Bay, Port Arthur which is due to expire on the 30th of November 2023, can you clarify whether those Marine Farming and Environmental Licenses have been extended, and if so:

- (1) When was that decision made?*
- (2) What are the terms and conditions of those renewals?*
- (3) Is restocking of the Long Bay lease currently underway, and has there been any reduction in the allowable biomass for that lease?*
- (4) Who did you consult before extending the Long Bay Marine farming license?*

I note that the question also relates to the environmental regulation of finfish which falls within Minister Roger Jaensch's portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

I can advise that these questions have also been referred to Minister Jaensch's office and the Leader of Government will provide a separate response.

In response to question 1:

- (1) No decision has been made, at this stage, to renew the licence for marine lease 55 in Long Bay, Port Arthur.

The *Living Marine Resource Management Act 1995* applies to the renewal of marine farming licences, and such renewals are a matter for the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania or his delegate.

Renewal of environmental licences is a matter for Environment Protection Authority Tasmania.

In response to question 2:

- (2) No decision has been made, at this stage, to renew the marine farming licence. I note that my previous answer to the member for Nelson dated 15 August outlines the marine farming licence renewal process.

In response to question 3

- (3) I am advised that the lease is currently operating under existing licence authorisations.

Details on any reduction in allowable biomass is a matter for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

And in response to question 4

- (4) The marine farming licence has not yet been renewed for the 2023/24 licence period. The *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* does not provide for public input and/or appeal in relation to the renewal of a marine farming licence.

[Minister's Response Provided on Tuesday, 14 November 2023]