

Question on Notice

No. 1247

Asked on 28 October 2022

MR M BERKMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the death of a False Killer Whale that was captured and taken to Sea World for rehabilitation after beaching itself in March 2022— Will the Minister advise (a) had Village Roadshow Theme Parks applied for a license to exhibit this false killer whale under the Exhibited Animals Act and (b) what information does the department have on the cause of the animal's death?

ANSWER:

I have been advised that a subadult false killer whale was held at Sea World under a rehabilitation permit issued by the Department of Environment and Science (DES). Animals held under a rehabilitation permit are not required to be reported to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (the department).

On 12 June 2022, Sea World contacted the department to enquire whether a false killer whale held at Sea World under a rehabilitation permit could be moved from a quarantine pool to an enclosure used to display dolphins under their exhibition permit.

The department advised Sea World that the dolphin pools could be used for the false killer whale, provided that the public had no access to the pools (ie. the false killer whale was not displayed to the public) and that no other animals authorised under the exhibit licence occupied the same pool as the false killer whale.

On 15 June 2022, Sea World advised the department that the animal had been relocated to one of the dolphin pools and it was off display and residing on its own.

The department became aware of the death of the whale on 22 July 2022. The department does not have information on the cause of the animal's death, and that inquiry would be best directed to Sea World.