

Response to Questions on Notice

Australian Marine Sciences Association

Q1. Status of INPEX's funding of dolphin monitoring:

- First INPEX funded Darwin Harbour Coastal Dolphin Monitoring Program ran from 2011-2015.
- The second funded program ran from 2016 to 2020.

The results and analysis of population trends for three species of coastal dolphins in the Darwin region from 2011 to 2020 revealed the following:

Q.2 Did the short-lived dolphin monitoring program show a decline in dolphins in the harbour:

- Yes. The dolphin monitoring program (2011-2020) showed a decline in dolphins in the harbour.
- The endemic Australian humpback dolphin (*Sousa sahulensis*) has undergone an overall decline in the Darwin region since the inception of population monitoring in 2011, and this trend was also apparent at each of the three survey sites.
- The numbers of calves in groups have declined overall for Australian humpback and bottlenose dolphins over the course of the monitoring program.

Please note - The information gained from this program was meant to contribute towards future management options to ensure Darwin Harbour retains these important species - and has never been implemented since the funding ended in 2020.”