



Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science

Our ref: 75-04141
Your ref: 11036, 11090 and 11091/2015

PERTH CORONER'S COURT

Ms Dawn Wright
Manager Listings
Office of the State Coroner
Level 10
Central Law Courts
501 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000

4 JUL 2018

RECEIVED

Dear Ms Wright

INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS OF MURRAY ALLAN TURNER, MASON LAURENCE CARTER AND CHAD ALAN FAIRLEY

Thank you for your correspondence dated 28 February 2018 requesting advice on the actions taken by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Department) in relation to recommendation 3 made by the Coroner following the inquest into the deaths of Messrs Turner, Carter and Fairley. I apologise for the length of time it has taken to respond.

The Department has considered the findings and can advise:

- A request form was sent to the owners of all vessels being tracked through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) seeking updated vessel contact numbers and also requesting alternate on shore contact numbers. The owners are not compelled to provide alternate numbers however where provided these numbers will be called if efforts to make contact with the vessel fail.
- The Department met with the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and proposed the adoption of a regular daily scheduled call system between vessels at sea and a shore based contact within the fishing industry. In the event of a missed call other contact methods such as VMS can be used to investigate if an issue has arisen with the vessel. WAFIC undertook to promote this procedure with industry.
- The VMS breakdown policy has been amended to include a requirement to provide relevant information to the Water Police if contact cannot be made with someone on board the vessel within 4 hours of the VMS unit detecting a VMS vessel failure to report (during business hours).

- The Department is exploring options to have the VMS failure to report alerts monitored 24 hours a day/7days a week. This may be best undertaken by an existing marine safety organisation noting that with the large number of VMS failure alerts received daily and the process required for follow up, this may not be feasible.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon Dave Kelly MLA
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES

29 JUN 2018