

MONCK HEAD BOAT RAMP, CORAL BAY

Statement by Member for Ningaloo

MR R.N. SWEETMAN (Ningaloo) [12.58 pm]: I rise to advise the House of an impending planning and environmental catastrophe in the form of the Monck Head boat ramp at Coral Bay. It is a catastrophe that is about to occur on the Ningaloo Reef, seemingly aided and abetted by the Gallop Government. It was only last Tuesday during question time that the Premier said he would make sure that proper planning and development controls would be put in place to provide a sustainable future for the area. That flies in the face of the proposed development of a boat ramp at north Monck Head.

I owe the Government a debt of gratitude for the invitation to the cocktail party component of the cabinet meeting held in Carnarvon recently, where I met Doug Hunt, who operates a glass-bottom boat venture at Coral Bay. He advised me that the plans for the development of the Monck Head boat ramp had changed significantly. Since then I have done my own investigations and he has proved to be 100 per cent correct. I am absolutely staggered that a project, which was once envisaged to cost about \$2.5 million, has escalated to a structure that will cost between \$8 million and \$8.3 million. The development will include 30 000 tonnes of limestone being dropped onto the Ningaloo Reef to help form the boat ramp basin and car park, which will form a part of the boat ramp itself. That will involve serious environmental and planning implications and safety issues. I urgently call on the Government, and the Premier in particular, because of previous positions he has taken over matters involving the Ningaloo Reef, to revisit the location of the Monck Head boat ramp and have it shifted elsewhere, such as to North Bills Bay.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm