

Hon Bruce Donaldson; Hon Jim Scott; Hon Derrick Tomlinson; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Robin Chapple; Hon Ken Travers

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**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from 21 November.

**HON BRUCE DONALDSON** (Agricultural) [8.14 pm]: A week ago last Friday I spoke on this Bill and I will not recap what I said, unless members want me to. People will have to put the two *Hansards* together. Hon Nick Griffiths looks excited.

Hon Ken Travers: I can remember your speech as if it were yesterday. Ian Eliot and all the rest.

Hon Nick Griffiths: I will go to my room and get a copy of *Hansard* and read it.

Hon BRUCE DONALDSON: I thank Hon Nick Griffiths. I will try not to make my speech a trip down memory lane. The first part of my speech set out the genesis of what the Bill is intended to do.

Hon Ken Travers: It never hurts to get *Hansard* to help you write your memoirs.

Hon BRUCE DONALDSON: That is right. It is something for the biography, and that will help.

I was enthusiastic about the issue of coastal management at the time. Over the years I have maintained that enthusiasm. In my speech on this Bill, I referred to the 29 recommendations of the "Final Report of the Review of Coastal Management in Western Australia", and I outlined the terms of reference that were set out. The first recommendation was to define what is the "coastal zone". I was very pleased to read the opening introduction of the new Coastal Planning and Management Manual, and I compliment the ministry and the Government on releasing it. It is a first-class manual and is able to be updated. It will be very handy.

The report I was involved with has been reviewed a couple of times. Even the final report went out for public submissions. It has been reviewed and the Government has set up another task force to go through it again. Consequently, that is why this Bill is before us. The introduction of the latest report defined what is "the coast". I am pleased that the definition has not been changed, although I did not write the words. The report indicates that the definition of "the coast" has been adapted from the Donaldson report of 1995.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: You did not write this, but you directed it.

Hon BRUCE DONALDSON: That is right. I acknowledge that two very experienced people put these words together.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: They only put the words together; you put the ideas together.

Hon BRUCE DONALDSON: Planning management documents have included much debate about what constitutes "the coast" and "the coastal zone". The Coastal Planning and Management Manual states -

A working definition of "the coast" is:

- waters, the seabed, reefs and offshore islands, including gulfs and sounds under the jurisdiction of the Western Australian Government
- the mobile beach zone and modern (Holocene) dune systems, mangroves, wetlands, and flats subject to tidal influence
- rocky outcrops and headlands
- areas potentially subject to shoreline movements
- estuaries and coastal lagoons.

As a rider, the document states -

For the purposes of this manual and the information contained within it, the coast can be further defined as the area where coastal management problems are occurring, and coastal land managers and communities are working to address these.

Before members start to shudder, I inform everyone that I will not go through all the 29 recommendations; I have picked out only a few. Recommendation No 4 states -

The State Government should adopt the following environmental, social, economic and administrative objectives for coastal zone management in Western Australia in accordance with its principles . . .

Those principles are outlined under recommendation 3, which I will not go through. It is interesting that the modern, in words today are "triple bottom line". In 1995, the committee was ahead of its time. It stated the environmental, social and economic objectives. Now people affectionately know and call them the triple bottom

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line. Although the committee did not call it the triple bottom line - those words came later - it set the scene for what we see today. That is showing off a bit. Recommendation No 5 states -

The state Government should establish a high-level Coastal Zone Management Council . . .

The Government did that. Recommendation No 6 states -

The Coastal Zone Management Council should be established as a Standing Committee of the Western Australian Planning Commission reporting to the Minister for Planning and through that Minister to State Cabinet.

That is what this Bill is all about. It is the last step. The previous Government set up the Coastal Zone Management Council, but it did not take the next step, as we had recommended. The present Government is taking that next, very important, step.

Hon Ken Travers: We listened to Hon Bruce Donaldson.

Hon BRUCE DONALDSON: The previous Government listened to me, but this has been reviewed by many people. I am very pleased to see this happen, because it gives teeth to coastal protection. We know that over 80 per cent of domestic, interstate or international tourists gravitate to the coast, especially domestic tourists. We are finding that many people are moving to the coast or taking their holidays there. Australia is an island nation, and the need to see and be part of the ocean is built into all of us, given the climate we have and the oceans we have around us.

We also suggested that a new coastal zone management fund should be established and administered by the new Coastal Zone Management Council, with an allocation of \$1.85 million over five years. We were very pleased when Cabinet decided to match the commonwealth funding in its new program with \$350 000 in the first year, after the problems with State's rights were settled. As usual the Commonwealth wanted to control the whole operation. That was worked through. I can remember the then Premier, Hon Richard Court saying that he did not suppose that I would consider the funding was sufficient. I thanked him for simply including it in the budget. That has gone on ever since, and the amount of money allocated has increased. At the present moment, the federal Government has gone off on its own program, and the Coastwest grants, as we knew them, which at last count included half a million dollars of State money, are not matched by commonwealth funding. In its new program under the National Heritage Trust the Commonwealth changed direction and looked at other ways and means of supporting coastal management. The State has continued the program through the years. I can remember at one stage the total allocated to Coastcare from state and commonwealth money reached \$10 million.

That amount of money is at least doubled because of the contribution of local government and in-kind support from communities. I talked about the squatters' shacks as an example. A terrific amount of work has been done up and down the coast by volunteer community groups. A really good example is on the edge of Green Head, north of Jurien Bay, at Billygoat Bay and Little Anchorage, which were idyllic spots for squatters' shacks. I can remember travelling up there with Hon Peter Foss when he was a minister, and Hon Kevin Minson. It brought back a lot of memories for Hon Peter Foss, whose family came across from Three Springs, where his father was a minister of religion, and holidayed in the area. The shacks had been removed, but some of the old concrete pads were still there. What the community of Green Head did with the funding that went to the shire was first class, as is the way people are managed in that area now. Tour buses do the run through that area. It shows what can be done with a bit of funding from local government, the State Government and the Commonwealth. It is surprising how much communities will rise to the occasion and take on the tasks of making sure dune rehabilitation and coastal management takes place. That has also happened with the dune rehabilitation at Cottesloe. A tremendous enthusiasm has been generated by those funds.

In another recommendation, which did not get taken up, I coined a phrase about the three-ocean policy. At the time, as we all know, there was a three-mine policy for uranium. I put in a recommendation that a three-oceans research policy should be established. I used the three-mine policy as a basis for that. At the moment work is being done at Townsville on the Pacific Ocean, and at Hobart on the Southern Ocean. Western Australia and the Indian Ocean were being neglected in that sense, as was the west side of the Southern Ocean between Esperance and Albany. A group with quite a bit of funding is holding a meeting at the Fremantle Sailing Club on Thursday week. I cannot think of the name of the group, but I received an invitation via e-mail today. This group has been putting a lot of work into marine research. It is a start, and a very important one, because of the importance to Western Australia of the coastline. I am very pleased that things are slowly but surely moving down the track.

The other recommendation was that the coastal zone management system be reviewed after five years. In fact, that did take place. The final report was put out for public comment, and a number of submissions were received, but very little was actually changed. Further changes have been incorporated in the new manual.

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While this final step has had a very long gestation period, it is very important because at long last there will be teeth for the Coastal Planning and Coordination Council. It is coming back to a point very close to what it was originally, before the Coast Zone Management Council was established. I wish the new body well. It has a lot of work ahead of it. As a standing committee of the Western Australian Planning Commission, I hope it will assist in some very difficult planning tasks, which are always problems for local government and the WAPC when dealing with the coast.

I can remember saying that, where there was a hard rock interface between the ocean and the terrestrial side, the setback did not need to be too great, but where there was a very sandy, fragile interface, the setback should be 500 metres. Those interested in development and planning almost had a fit, because that would have affected some of their great planning decisions or developments close to the coast. However, we often see television images of houses in the United States toppling into the ocean.

Hon Ken Travers: Just go to Quinns Rocks today.

Hon BRUCE DONALDSON: It is the same thing. At the moment there is no real planning. People have literally been allowed to build on the edge of the water and some of the houses have toppled over. Insurance companies will not insure houses in some of those areas so people have to build at their own risk. There is a need for sensible planning.

I refer to the new Ocean Reef marina. I know that the committee has been to that area and that it has had talks with the City of Joondalup and the State Government. The proposal is being looked at and registrations of interest have been called for. I hope that marina will be developed, because Hillarys Boat Harbour is at bursting point. The other day I looked at the number of boats launched from Hillarys and the amount of people who belong to the Whitfords Sea Sports Club. The coast can accommodate another marina. I imagine that the coastal coordinating committee will be at the forefront and that the Western Australia Planning Commission will consider the committee's advice when the final decisions are made.

There is a degree of personal satisfaction in seeing the final piece of the jigsaw in which I and my colleagues Ian Eliot and Rob Kay were involved finally put in place. With that, the Opposition supports the Bill.

**HON JIM SCOTT** (South Metropolitan) [8.32 pm]: The Greens (WA) support this legislation. It is an important change for the planning of Western Australia symbolically and in reality. Coastal planning is a pivotal issue for many Western Australian residents who live not only near the beach but also in inland and country areas, because access to the coast and the preservation of the quality of our coastline is one of the most important things in our Western Australian lifestyle. Unfortunately in the past, many great mistakes have been made in not only coastal planning, but also other areas. For example, Cockburn Sound has basically become a total industrial area with little else between Rockingham and Woodman Point. Some of those appalling mistakes have been made in the recent past. Jervoise Bay is a good example of that type of mistake. However, there are lots of other examples. When the Hope Valley-Wattleup redevelopment plans went through this place, I had briefings from the planning department. I asked what planning was in place for coastal recreation given the future population growth in that region. The answer was none. Obviously, that was not seen as an important facet even though the community was crying out for the maintenance of its coastal areas. The Leighton Beach proposal involved building right to the very edge of the cliffs -

Hon Murray Criddle: That is not right.

Hon JIM SCOTT: I saw the plans; they were appalling. The plans were completely about creating an enclave for a few at the expense of the many.

Hon Murray Criddle: You have got the bull by the horns again.

Hon JIM SCOTT: Hon Murray Criddle will have an opportunity to give his speech a bit later. I will continue with mine for the moment.

My view of that development is that it was ill-advised not because we should not have had urban development along the rail line, but because it was close to the coast and was designed to make the beach an enclave. That development was not designed to maintain the beach. It was a critical beach given that the planners who were in charge - the WA Planning Commission and the Government - took away the whole of Cockburn Sound. Many people south of the river travel north of the river because beaches like South Beach get very crowded. Cottesloe Beach is north of Leighton and it also gets very crowded. When we consider the pressure that would be put on the remaining areas at which there would have been access, the Perth metropolitan area could not have maintained adequate beach access for many people if we had continued down that path. In recent times we have seen a lack of cohesion in the planning south of Fremantle. Regardless of the individual merits of developments such as Port Catherine and the development that is proposed in South Fremantle - I suppose it is on the border of Cockburn - they have been done on the basis of adhocery. There is a total lack of cohesion in the way in which

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they will be integrated into the urban fabric and the way they will maintain coastal access, which is what the people of Western Australia want. Probably one of the largest concerns in that regard is that the lack of adequate setbacks will become a much greater problem in the future. During the twentieth century, sea levels rose something like eight inches across the world. The erosion of the coastline will become more commonplace. Certainly in South Fremantle, erosion next to the Bradken site, for which there is a proposed development, is the worst I have seen since living in that region.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: We might also have emerging coastlines. If the coast erodes at one point, there is deep positioning somewhere else so the geomorphology tells us that there will be degradation of some coastlines and the accretion of new coastlines.

Hon JIM SCOTT: Hon Derrick Tomlinson is quite correct except to say that that is usually a seasonal matter - it moves south one season and north in another. Overall, rising sea levels will not bring about accretion; they will bring about greater levels of erosion.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: It is more correct to say that we will see changing coastlines.

Hon JIM SCOTT: That most certainly will be seen, but I do not think it is a mistake to say that there will be more breaking down than building up of the coast, because it is a physical impossibility to get more coastline with a rising sea level. It just does not follow.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Where does the landmass go? Does the landmass just dissolve?

Hon JIM SCOTT: No. Not only will the sea in fact flow further inland, but also, because of the warming climate, we will have bigger and heavier storms, which will cause more breakdown of the coast.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: It is a finite mass of water and a finite mass of land.

Hon JIM SCOTT: There may indeed be a finite mass. Unfortunately for Hon Derrick Tomlinson's theory, the total amount of water can remain the same, but when it is heated, it takes up a larger space, just like Hon Derrick Tomlinson when he gets up a head of steam while he is making a speech. It is invisible expansion occurring.

Quite often in the past, insensitive planning has occurred when small coastal towns that have single developments have more than doubled the size of those developments. Allowing community and local government representatives to be on the coastal planning council as part of the Western Australian Planning Commission will enable some of those viewpoints to be better heard.

Hon Bruce Donaldson wants to see more canal developments. Canal developments on the east coast of Australia have been experiencing very significant problems because of the increasing levels of acid sulfate soils. I understand that today canal developments are completely banned in many areas on the east coast.

Hon Bruce Donaldson: Cedar Woods at Mandurah has just won an Australian environmental award for its canal development.

Hon JIM SCOTT: Unfortunately, acid sulfate is starting to be seen at Port Mandurah. That is a very good example of exactly what I am talking about.

Hon Bruce Donaldson: It was an Australian award.

Hon JIM SCOTT: While the Liberal Government was in power in Western Australia, the Stirling City Council and the Atlas tip got an award for a device that was supposed to make electricity out of waste but did not actually produce any electricity. In fact, it was secretly putting the putrescible waste into the tip at night. Sometimes people get awards when they do not deserve them. Getting an award is not necessarily a good indication. It does not change the fact that canal developments on the east coast are having major problems with acid sulfate. These problems are now appearing in Mandurah.

Of greatest importance in planning issues is something I have mentioned already but which I want to reiterate; that is, the coast belongs to all Australians. It is very important that, whatever planning we have, we maintain significant areas for public use, those areas are not commercialised and we leave sufficiently large areas of unspoiled coast for future generations to enjoy. This legislation is a symbolic step along that path. From what I have heard, the minister hopes to ensure that that occurs. There are planning problems already, particularly those in my electorate between Fremantle and Rockingham. We are seeing a loss of coastal amenity to some degree. We need to ensure that we have coherent, integrated planning for the whole region. I hope that, rather than the Western Australian Planning Commission allowing this to be done at the whim of individual developers, we put in place a very comprehensive plan and then bring in the developers to enable the development to be brought to fruition, not the other way around. If we do it the other way around, we will see the loss of coastland

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for the average Australian, and only the more wealthy and lucky will get to use the coastline. The Greens support this legislation and the Government's aims in bringing it forward, and we hope it has the desired effect.

**HON DERRICK TOMLINSON** (East Metropolitan) [8.46 pm]: I commend the observation of Hon Bruce Donaldson that this Bill is building on the good work of the previous Government and, in fact, the good work of the committee that he chaired. It takes the coastal zone council, which the Western Australian Planning Commission is not obliged to appoint, and establishes the Coastal Planning and Coordination Council as a statutory committee under section 19 of the Western Australian Planning Commission Act. Section 19 obliges the commission to establish the Executive, Finance and Property Committee, the Statutory Planning Committee, the Transport Committee and the Infrastructure Coordinating Committee. It now will be obliged to establish the Coastal Planning and Coordination Council.

An issue that was alluded to by Hon Jim Scott, which requires some further emphasis, is coordination. Hon Jim Scott used the example of the Leighton development to demonstrate the conflicting demands of leisure or pleasure in coastal use and also the possibility of using that strip of the metropolitan coast for urban development. Quite clearly, the friction that the planning process can cause demonstrates the need for coordination between competing demands for land use along the coast. I think the Western Australian Planning Commission had sufficient authority in that instance to resolve it in a way that I hope will be satisfactory to the competing demands.

The Western Australian coast is probably one of the longest coastlines in the world for which a governing entity is responsible. The Western Australian population has a tendency to cling to that coastline. There are competing demands for not only recreation and residential uses but also industrial, transportation and fishing use. Such conflict could be possible in Cockburn Sound. On one side of the sound at Garden Island is a defence facility and directly opposite that on the coast is probably the largest heavy industrial facility in the Perth metropolitan area, and nestled between the two is the town of Rockingham. There are competing demands for Cockburn Sound to be used as a harbour and for recreational purposes. That is a microcosm of the coast. The work of Hon Bruce Donaldson's committee and the 2001 Ministerial Taskforce Investigating Structural Arrangements for Coastal Planning and Management in Western Australia demonstrated a need for the integration of those competing demands. There is a need for a committee to advise the Planning Commission of the resolution of those competing demands. For that reason I commend the Bill and the Government for the structure of the committee.

The committee will consist of a presiding member who is to be a member of the commission, the member of the commission who is the chief executive officer of what is currently the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, the member of the commission who is the CEO of the Environmental Protection Authority, the CEO of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the CEO of the Department of Fisheries, the CEO of the department responsible for the Mining Act and the CEO of the Tourism Commission. All the competing demands that are putting pressure upon our coast will be accommodated.

I am a little concerned about who will be the presiding officer. The recommendation of the ministerial task force was that the presiding member be a member of the Planning Commission. The Bill provides that the presiding member is to be a member of the commission referred to in section 5(1)(b)(iii). To find out what section 5(1)(b)(iii) referred to, I got a copy of the Western Australian Planning Commission Act from the Legislative Council Procedures Office and learnt that section 5(1)(b)(iii) has been deleted. I assume that section 5(1)(b)(iv) becomes 5(1)(b)(iii), in which case the presiding officer is to be one of the two persons nominated by the minister as having experience in one or more of the fields of urban and regional planning, business management, property development, financial management, engineering, surveying, etc; in other words, the non-departmental members of the commission.

Hon Ken Travers: Clause 3(2) creates a new section 5(1)(b)(iii), which refers to a person nominated by the minister as having experience in the field of coastal planning and management. This Bill will establish a new member of the commission, who will also chair the council.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I see. As far as I can ascertain, section 5(1)(b)(iii) was deleted by Bill No 59 of 1999 or Bill No 7 of 2002. I am not quite sure which it was, but the paragraph was certainly deleted. The parliamentary secretary suggests that the commission will now have five members.

Hon Ken Travers: Clause 3 of this Bill will add another member to the commission.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Clause 3 provides for the reference to "4" in section 5 to be changed to "5". That relates to the number of members of the commission. Clause 3 also proposes to insert new section 5(1)(b)(iii).

Hon Ken Travers: You had me worried for a minute.

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Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: It worried me. I raised the matter because I knew that the parliamentary secretary would be very quick to explain the problem.

Hon Bruce Donaldson has indicated that the Opposition supports the Bill. For the reasons given by Hon Jim Scott, the Opposition supports the Bill. This Bill will not merely establish a committee to advise the Planning Commission; it will establish a committee comprising representatives of all the activities for which there are competing demands for the coast so that there will be a coordination in planning for coastal use that takes account of each of those competing demands. I commend the Bill to the House.

**HON MURRAY CRIDDLE** (Agricultural) [8.56 pm]: The issues have been well covered by the other speakers. The National Party supports this Bill, which, as Hon Derrick Tomlinson has outlined, will have a very important role. The Coastal Planning and Coordination Council will be one of the prescribed standing committees of the Western Australian Planning Commission. It will coordinate and integrate policies and programs across all government departments, local government, regional natural resource management and coastal groups, non-government organisations and industry groups. It will have a very important role as there are many conflicts along the coast.

I understand that the Planning Commission will be required to appoint a member with experience in coastal planning and management who will preside over the Coastal Planning and Coordination Council. The council will also comprise two representatives from local government and at least two representatives from the community. I understand that will be the make-up of the committee.

Hon Ken Travers: There will be two from local government, with one country member.

Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE: Yes; I said that. Those people will have a very important role. The decisions they make will be as good as the personnel who are assigned to work with the council.

I remember that a number of years ago Hon Bruce Donaldson played a vital role in the dealings with the fishermen who lived in the shacks along the coast. We met regularly with those fishermen and had some very interesting debates about whether they should go into nodes and the like. To this day, some still disagree with any movement. I hope that some of the fellows in those shacks have the opportunity to remain there until they reach the end of their working lives and that they can then move on. Their lives in that area go back to some of the very interesting times of many years ago. That history should be remembered.

There has been some mention, particularly by Hon Jim Scott, of Leighton Beach and other areas. In the future we will see the need for very good cooperation by developers in the way the coast is looked after. That is what we tried to do with the Leighton development. In fact, much of the funding from that development would have assisted with the management of that coastal area. I reflect on what is happening at the present time. Unless we get some cooperation from developers on the way in which we manage the coastline, we will miss out on an opportunity to not only manage but also rehabilitate a coastline that in some areas has been overgrazed by the people who visit it. There will also be an opportunity to organise parking and the like along the coastline. Those opportunities should not be lost. Developments will go ahead along the coast. People are moving to the coast whether we like it or not. An enormous amount of pressure is being placed on areas south from Exmouth.

Hon Jim Scott interjected.

Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE: It is interesting that Hon Jim Scott continues to talk about setbacks. As people get close to the coast, and if a road is to be built 200 metres from the coast, unless a very organised mechanism is put in place to ensure that people travel on designated roads or footpaths or have other amenities to go to, people will just go to the coast willy-nilly. The point I make is that it must be an organised development, otherwise people will just overgraze and destroy the coastline. This is not something that only I believe in. Members can see this happening anywhere up and down the coast. Areas south of Yardie Creek towards Coral Bay are being overgrazed. In my own home village, if members want to call it that, of Horrocks Beach, some pine posts had to be placed close to the coast to stop people in four-wheel-drive vehicles from just barging through the sand dunes. That is the problem that people will have to confront up and down the coast. Like it or not, those issues are out there and will need to be dealt with. I know that there are some issues in Cockburn Sound, but Hon Jim Scott and others will have to focus on these issues right up and down the coast. To say a setback is the answer is rubbish.

Hon Norman Moore: Jim wants us all to live in Doodlakine.

Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE: My place will probably become beachfront property with the way things are going.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: When the sea level rises you will be in trouble.

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HON MURRAY CRIDDLE: Yes, when the sea level rises. I am being very serious because this is a real issue. We need to meet and confront all those issues and not just talk about setbacks. Setbacks are one thing. The real issue is the way in which the distance between the setback and the coast or the waterfront is dealt with. Members should not be deluded by people who say that the road will be moved back another 300 metres. Some very good work has been done in providing roads to the coast in an area south of Kalbarri through the Kalbarri National Park. It is very well organised. That sort of thing costs a lot of money. People need to be involved in a coordinated effort to put in place meaningful organisation for the coastline. That is something we must well and truly understand. Environmental toilets and a host of issues must be dealt with. I first ran into that in Milyering just south of Exmouth. There is a very good establishment there. All those things need to be taken into account.

It also needs to be taken into account that the people who camp in designated areas might volunteer to assist. Somebody might look after the rubbish and so forth for staying in such a place. That is another type of organisation that can be put in place, because people like to live in remote areas. They will get on board and assist with the way in which the people who are in those places organise themselves. I encourage people who are looking at these issues to remember that we need to involve the people in those places in the decision-making process. I note that community members are involved. I hope that they are community members who have hands-on experience of what happens up and down the coast and are not just people who have been chosen because they have a track record of representation on committees. It needs to involve people who understand the issues. With those few words we support the Bill. However, we recognise that there will have to be some real understanding of the issues up and down the coast to capitalise on some of the excellent work that has already been done.

**HON ROBIN CHAPPLE** (Mining and Pastoral) [9.04 pm]: I will speak in support of the Bill. I do so on the grounds that, as Hon Murray Criddle has mentioned, we need to look more broadly at some of the issues up and down the coast. I alert the House to the fact that houses are being built below the six-metre tidal surge area in a number of locations in the north west. This causes me a great deal of concern. Following on from what my colleague Hon Jim Scott had to say, we are clearly faced with a significant rise in ocean levels as a result of the warming of the oceans and the melting of the ice caps and glacier systems. When the Western Australian Planning Commission starts to look at the issues of coastal dwellings and setbacks, it will need to take on board the comments of many eminent scientific journals that indicate the current state of affairs. I refer more specifically to a report in last month's edition of *Science*. Andrew Shepherd of the Scott Polar Research Institute of the University of Cambridge in Britain indicated that the warming of the oceans had been melting many of the ice shelves much faster than people had previously thought. In fact the Larsen C shelf, which is probably one of the biggest ice shelves, has been significantly eroded from below as a result of the warming of the ocean. Clearly, many shelves have already been lost. We must remember that the ice involved in the Larsen ice shelf would equate to a rise of about 0.3 metres - about a foot - in global sea levels if and when it melts. Many other chunks have come off various ice shelves in the Antarctic and Arctic. Sea levels have risen by four inches or 10 centimetres during the past century. They are expected to rise quite dramatically. Although they say this is highly unlikely, one must remember that if the ice caps melt, which they will not, and if many of the glaciers continue to be denuded at the current rate, the impact would be an approximately 260-foot rise in sea levels. This is no fairytale. This is scientific fact. However, I point out that the systems that have evolved mean that there would be greater snowfall in the polar regions. Therefore, there would be a significant replacement. However, quite clearly, the Scott Polar Research Institute is now indicating that the impacts on the Larsen C shelf and many other shelves are exponentially increasing and that we need to be fully aware of the impact of that in the future on our coastal zones.

I refer to a map produced by the former Government, which actually shows the inundation expected in the Port Hedland region as a result of the predicted sea level rise. It was the former Government's own documents. There is some humour on the other side of the House. It is always a matter for members opposite of, "We don't believe it; we haven't seen it; it hasn't happened." Quite clearly, impacts are being seen. The prediction from the scientific community, not the green lobby, is that the impacts will happen, and much faster than we had anticipated.

**HON KEN TRAVERS** (North Metropolitan - Parliamentary Secretary) [9.09 pm]: I thank members for their support. It was certainly interesting listening to Hon Bruce Donaldson and hearing a bit about the history of the matter and the fact that he had previously recommended such a course of action. It was also interesting to hear Ian Eliot's name raised again. I studied geography under him.

In terms of increasing coasts, it can clearly be seen at Rockingham that the coast there has expanded over a period longer than our lifetime. However, in terms of geology or geomorphology, our lifetime is a fairly short space of time. It is fair to say that most members raised the concern that we need to be careful about how we manage our coastline. The creation of this committee as a standing committee of the Western Australian

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Planning Commission recognises that and the need for us to carefully plan and manage our coastline - in the past we have probably not felt that way. Members contributed their own historical examples of where they felt planning had gone wrong or of the challenges we face in trying to create a coordinated approach to planning and in dealing with those increasing and competing demands and expectations for the conservation and the development of the coastline. This Bill aims to create a far more coordinated approach across the State to deal with those matters.

I think I addressed Hon Derrick Tomlinson's issue by way of interjection. Under proposed section 5(1)(b)(iii) a new position will be created that will be filled by a person with experience in the field of coastal planning and management. That person will chair the committee and sit on the commission, which will be unique in terms of the current structure of the standing committee.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: It will certainly give the coordinating committee considerable authority.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Yes. Hon Murray Criddle outlined the real need for us to have this legislation and gave some good examples of where we are coming from in this regard. The areas of expertise from which the ordinary committee members will be drawn are outlined in the Bill. Although the areas are fairly broad in definition, these people will have the sort of expertise that Hon Murray Criddle is looking for. The appointment will be made by the WA Planning Commission, with the person having to be approved by the minister.

Hon Robin Chapple highlighted the sorts of issues that we are facing and the need for us to be vigilant with regard to the scientific research currently out there. With those comments, I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate, and passed.