

COOGEE MARINA DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE, IMPACT

1932. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Regarding climate change and sea level rise -

- (1) Is the Minister aware that developers of the Coogee canal/marina development have proposed 0.3 of a metre as an adequate allowance for sea level rise and that the information provided previously by the Minister is that the sea level rise being used by the WAPC is 0.38 of a metre?
- (2) Given that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has said that the most likely sea level rise is 0.66 of a metre and that coastlines will be subjected to many more frequent and severe storms than previously, other Western States are allowing for a sea level rise of at least a metre, so what steps will the Minister take to -
 - (a) ensure that the Coogee canal/marina development is not inundated by rising sea levels; and
 - (b) ensure that the State will not be liable for damages for approving the Coogee canal/marina development?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

1. The issue of sea level rise will be determined during the detailed development application process and will be consistent with the State Coastal Planning Policy SPP 2.6, which recommends that 0.38 metres should be the allowance for sea level rise.
2. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a committee of the United Nations Environment Program and World Meteorological Organisation
It provides at regular intervals an assessment of the state of knowledge on climate change.
The Third Assessment Report, Climate Change 2001, built upon past assessments with the assistance of additional data from new studies and produced 40 future scenarios of world climate.
In the range of outputs from the 40 scenarios, global sea level rise is projected to rise by levels from 0.09 to 0.88 metres between 1990 and 2100. The models produced a range of outputs some of which are very conservative and others that are very exaggerated. These produced estimates that are the outer range of possibilities for climate change and resulting sea level rise. The middle range of scenarios are grouped as being 'the model average' scenarios.
The IPCC in its Third Assessment Report also produced scenarios for the regional impacts of Climate Change, including for the Australasian region. These scenarios comment of regional climate information, vulnerabilities and potential impacts for the key scenarios. The figure of 0.66m cited may have been taken from the North American regional scenario, as may have been the reference to "other Western States".
The State Coastal SPP requires that setbacks to development be sufficient to accommodate sea level rise (amongst other factors relating to coastal processes). The figure for sea level rise was chosen from the middle of the IPCC "model average" scenarios and the middle figure (ie the mean of the median model) is used, that is: 0.38 metres. In the absence of more detailed sub-regional scenarios, one number is needed for the purposes of a State Policy and with the advice of the DPI Coastal Engineers it was decided that the mean of the median model was the most appropriate figure to use.
 - a) When considering detailed planning proposals for Port Coogee, Government will have due regard to all provisions of the State Coastal Planning Policy SPP2.6, including provisions that relate specifically to sea level rise.
 - b) Like any significant development proposal, once detailed plans are produced and submitted for consideration and determination, they will be scrutinised to ensure compliance with the full suite of Government legislation and policy that applies to development in this State.