

CLIMATE CHANGE, RISES IN SEA LEVEL AND STORM SURGE IMPACTS

1730. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

- (1) Has the Department of Planning and Infrastructure carried out any studies on the potential impacts to coastal areas from sea level rises or increased storm surge impacts caused by climate change?
- (2) If yes, will the Minister table those studies?
- (3) Has the Department of Planning and Infrastructure carried out any studies on the potential impacts and damage to the proposed Port Coogee Canal development from sea level rises and storm surges linked to enhanced greenhouse effect climatic change?
- (4) If yes, will the Minister table those studies?
- (5) Has the Department of Planning and Infrastructure carried out any studies on the erosion rates and potential impacts and damage to the South Beach housing development from sea level rises and storm surges linked to enhanced greenhouse effect climatic change?
- (6) If yes, will the Minister table those studies?
- (7) Which State Government agency, if any, is responsible or liable for ameliorating the impacts of coastal erosion and inundation for rises in sea level?
- (8) Does this include liability for the protection of private property on approved coastal subdivisions and canal estates?
- (9) What action plans are in place to protect coastal subdivisions and canal estates from the impacts of rising sea levels?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

- (1) The issues were included in the considerations of a committee that guided the preparation of the Western Australian Planning Commission Statement of Planning Policy 2.6.
- (2) The Western Australian Planning Commission Statement of Planning Policy 2.6 is attached.
- (3) We are not aware of any canal development.

However in respect of the Port Coogee Marina development as part of the Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment process, the Western Australian Planning Commission prepared an Environmental Review Report to address environmental objectives set by the Environmental Protection Authority. The report concluded that a storm surge of approximately one metre above astronomical tide level is possible. This risk will be managed by setting appropriate building levels on the peninsulas of reclaimed land.
- (4) Port Catherine Environmental Review Report, volumes 1 and 2 attached.
- (5) Yes. In accordance with Western Australian Planning Commission Statement of Planning Policy 2.6, the value of S1 was determined to be 15 metres, S2 was zero near the northern end of the development and 37 metres at the southern end of the lot. S3, the distance to allow for sea level change, was the prescribed 38 metres. The resulting development line was 11 metres landwards of the existing property boundary and parallel there to.
- (6) The Western Australian Planning Commission Statement of Planning Policy 2.6 is attached. [See paper No 2073.]
- (7) No State government agency has a statutory responsibility or liability for ameliorating the impacts of coastal erosion. However the Department for Planning and Infrastructure has a Coastal Management Program to manage the impacts of coastal erosion and sea-level rise on the WA coastline. This includes coastal engineering, coastal data collection and management, policy and advice and coastal protection sub-programs.
- (8) See 7
- (9) There are no action plans as such. However, there are Policy guidelines for decision-making, which include the requirement to consider the potential impacts of rising sea level. The Western Australian Planning Commission Statement of Planning Policy 2.6 and the draft Coastal Protection Policy for WA both recognise that sea level rise resulting from greenhouse effects can leave the coast more vulnerable to erosion and inundation.