

RISING SEA LEVELS

52. Hon JIM SCOTT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

Further to my question without notice of Thursday, 4 March -

- (1) Is the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure aware that in the United States of America a comprehensive cost benefit analysis carried out on the best way to deal with planning for sea level rise clearly shows that the present value of prohibiting all new development outweighs the cost of allowing the development to occur and then removing it should the sea level rise?
- (2) Has the Department for Planning and Infrastructure carried out or is it carrying out a cost benefit analysis of coastal planning policy in the event of sea level rise and estuarine foreshore inundation?
- (3) Is the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure aware that the protection of coastal infrastructure by seawalls or other engineering solutions is likely to increase the loss of low-lying sandy beaches and coastal wetlands?
- (4) Has the Department for Planning and Infrastructure investigated how Western Australian beaches and coastal wetlands can be protected from the impact of rising sea levels?
- (5) Will the minister provide a legislative framework to ensure that the State is better protected against the huge economic, social and environmental costs of rising sea levels?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I seek leave to have the answer incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated -

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| 1-2 | The planning controls and setbacks, which exist in the WA planning system generally do not exist in the US. The Western Australian Planning Commission's State Coastal Planning Policy (SPP2.6) requires that development on the coast be set back from the shoreline, with the exception of marina based development, to protect structures from coastal processes specifically including sea level rise. It has been acceptable for the foreshore to be privately owned and fenced in the United States. |
| 3. | This is not necessarily the case. Each proposal for coastal infrastructure is assessed on its merits and the potential positive and negative impacts it may have on the environment. Other matters to consider include economic and financial issues and social benefits. |
| 4. | The State Coastal Planning Policy makes allowance for sea level rise of 0.38m over the next 100 years. The formula for the setback to accommodate coastal processes makes provision for this sea level rise. In the case of marina based development, within the coastal setback, minimum building levels are required to accommodate sea level variations and provision of an adequate safety margin for clearance above water. |
| 5. | The States Coastal Planning Policy is a statutory policy, created under s 5AA of the Town Planning and Development Act. |
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