



Speech by

**Hon. D. WELLS**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Hansard 4 December 2002

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **State Coastal Plan**

**Hon. D. M. WELLS** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Environment) (10.02 a.m.): The state coastal plan commenced in February this year. The statewide framework was awarded the top honour for planning excellence at the state awards of the Royal Australian Planning Institute. We are now in the process of introducing the regional coastal management plans which sit under the state plan. The first regional plan scheduled to go out for public review and consultation is the draft Curtis Coast regional coastal management plan. This plan will be released today, and I table it now for the benefit of honourable members. I thank the 17 members of the Curtis Coast Regional Working Group involved in preparing the draft plan. They played a key role in identifying the region's coastal resources, documenting management issues and proposing solutions to create a first-rate planning tool. This draft plan will be distributed in the Gladstone region for wider community input before it is finalised. Workshops will be held within the region to give people further opportunity to contribute to the draft plan.

This is just the first in a series of regional coastal plans designed to guide the protection and management of Queensland's unique and valuable coastal areas. Our coastal planning framework focuses on achieving ecologically sustainable management of our coast while recognising its enormous environmental, social and economic importance. The draft plan deals with the environmental pressures specific to the Gladstone area. There are different values specific to regional communities within the coastal zone. This plan looks at the best ways to manage impacts on them to ensure their long-term protection. Regional consultative groups representing the interests of councils, port authorities, urban developers, indigenous communities, industry, commercial and recreational fishing, conservation groups, and recreational groups should be congratulated for being part of the implementation program for the state coastal plan. These people have made a significant contribution since 1999 to help develop this draft plan and will continue their involvement during the public review period and development of the final plan.

Honourable members of this House will be extremely proud, because Queensland is the only state that has a coastal plan. Generations from now our beaches and coasts will still be a playground for children, a source of refreshment for adults and a scene of awe-inspiring beauty for all just because during the life of this parliament we committed to a plan that secured those outcomes. Today we are acting on the plan. I congratulate the Gladstone Regional Consultative Group for its valuable contribution and thank it for supporting the release of this draft plan.