



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGE

Hansard 13 November 2003

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Curtis Coast and Cardwell-Hinchinbrook Coastal Management Plans

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Minister for Environment) (10.04 a.m.): This government's determination to protect Queensland's unique coastal assets was demonstrated with the completion of two coastal management plans—the Curtis Coast and the Cardwell-Hinchinbrook management plans, which I table.

Our coastal planning framework focuses on achieving ecologically sustainable management of our coast while recognising its enormous environmental, social and economic importance. This framework was set by the state coastal management plan—Queensland's coastal policy—which commenced in February last year. We are developing a regional coastal management plan system to provide direction for implementing the state coastal management plan in regional coastal areas. The regional plans identify values and coastal management issues that are specific to regional areas. They provide policies to manage these issues and ensure the long-term protection of valuable coastal resources.

Anyone involved in planning and assessing coastal development in the Curtis Coast and Cardwell-Hinchinbrook regions will be able to use these plans to ensure that future development minimises impacts on coastal resources. The plans also provide guidance for management practices to help deliver improved protection for the environment. For instance, the plans promote improved management of urban and rural land to reduce pollutants in stormwater run-off and recognise the need to involve traditional owners in identifying and managing their cultural resources. We plan to hold regional training sessions on the use of these plans for local government and state agency officers.

These plans represent a major commitment from many sections of the community. Particular thanks should go to the regional consultative group members who have been involved in bringing forward community issues and revising the plans during their development. I will visit Gladstone and Cardwell-Hinchinbrook to launch these plans. I thank the members of councils, port authorities, indigenous communities, industry, commercial and recreational fishing, conservation groups and recreational groups who have been part of this coastal management process. Their efforts have contributed to a process that will ensure that our beaches and coastal landscapes will be there for our children and their descendants now and forever.