

**Question on Notice
No. 367
Asked on Wednesday, 12 March 2008**

QUESTION:

MR GIBSON asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) — Will he release the draft Wide Bay Regional Coastal Management Plan for public comment?

ANSWER:

The Government approved the State Coastal Management Plan in 2001 and that the plan came into operation in 2002.

The State Coastal Management Plan is a visionary policy document which has provided strategic direction and guidance for planning and development decisions in the coastal zone of Queensland for over six years. During this period we have seen considerable development pressure on the coast and have gained a much greater appreciation of the likely impacts of climate change on coastal environments and communities.

Section 42 of the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* requires that coastal management plans be reviewed within seven years of commencement. I announced the commencement of the review of the State Coastal Management Plan in January. This announcement invited submissions from the community up until 31 March 2008.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is undertaking the review and I have asked that:

- The effectiveness of the plan be thoroughly assessed;
- Options for simplifying the coastal planning system be considered;
- Overlaps between the coastal planning and other land use planning and development assessment systems be removed;
- Mechanisms are identified that ensure greater certainty about where coastal dependent development may occur.

Some region-specific plans were being developed. I came to the view that it would be sensible to defer further development or approval of new regional plans while the State Plan is being reviewed.

As a result, I asked the EPA to defer further work on regional coastal plans while the review of the State Coastal Management Plan is progressing. Members of my Ministerial coastal advisory councils and groups, local councils and peak interest groups have been informed of my decision.

A draft Wide Bay Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan has been under preparation, and I acknowledge the efforts of the members of the Regional Consultative Group in providing a number of Ministers, including myself, with advice during the preparation and drafting of the regional plan.

Work done on any of the incomplete regional plans will be utilised in the review of the State Plan.