

**Question on Notice
No. 86
Asked on Thursday, 14 February 2008**

QUESTION:

MS MALE asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) — With reference to the recently announced review of the State Coastal Management Plan —

Will he advise how the plan contributes to a more liveable Queensland, and how it increases the long term viability of our coastal environments?

ANSWER:

Queensland's 9500 kilometres of coastline has something for everyone. It supports townships, business and rural industry. It offers sandy beaches, abundant native wildlife, tropical rainforests, coastal wetlands and the world's largest sand island and coral reef for Queenslanders and visitors to enjoy. It is also a rich cultural resource for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Queensland Government recognises the need to protect these important coastal environmental, social and economic values.

This is especially important in high growth areas like the Sunshine Coast, with pressure for more and more development adjacent to sensitive environmental areas. I don't want to stifle responsible and appropriate development. The aim of the plan is to ensure people can enjoy the benefits of development without compromising our wonderful coastal environment.

The *State Coastal Management Plan – Queensland's Coastal Policy* (the Plan) commenced in February 2002, delivering a vision and direction to manage current and future pressures on Queensland's sensitive coastal zone. The Plan addresses the major challenges associated with protecting our coast for future generations – recognising, planning for and managing the long-term impacts of natural events and human activities in the coastal zone.

The State Coastal Plan provides a planned approach to the way we all use our coast, allowing for consideration of emerging issues such as changing trends in population growth in the coastal zone and the expected impacts of climate change, including sea level rise. It also accounts for current issues such as maintaining people's access to beaches and ensuring that coastal development occurs in appropriate places and ways.

An over-arching principle of the State Coastal Plan is to ensure development and activities are carried out in an ecologically sustainable manner. To provide for the sustainable management of our coast, the Plan has established policies to ensure that areas of natural and cultural significance are protected while facilitating opportunities for economic development.

Sustainable management provides long-term benefits for all Queenslanders who rely on coastal resources for their livelihoods and lifestyles.

A review of the State Coastal Management Plan has commenced in accordance with the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*. The review aims to ensure that Queensland's coastal policies remain effective in addressing the current and emerging pressures on the coast. The objectives of the review are to assess the effectiveness of the State Coastal Plan and its policies; consider how coastal planning can be simplified; ensure coastal policies are implemented appropriately; and provide greater certainty regarding where future coastal development can be located and be sustainable.