



Not relevant




6 **Cabinet Notes for Discussion**

Not relevant



606 REVIEWING SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S POLICY ON SEA LEVEL RISE (Gail Gago) -
NOTED

Not relevant



606
TO: THE PREMIER FOR CABINET TO NOTE

RE: REVIEWING SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S POLICY ON SEA LEVEL RISE

1. PROPOSAL

That Cabinet note:

- 1.1. The Coast Protection Board is commencing a review of its sea level rise policy in light of updated climate change projections; and
- 1.2. The potentially severe implications of significant sea level rise.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Coast Protection Board (the Board) formed a Mean Sea Level Advisory Committee (MSLAC) in the late 1980's to provide advice and recommendations to the Board that culminated in the sea level rise policy adopted by the South Australian Government in May 1991.
- 2.2. In August 2005 the Board resolved to reconvene the MSLAC to review the Board's policies relating to sea level rise. In 2006 the review was deferred until the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Fourth Assessment report.
- 2.3. The IPCC released its Fourth Assessment report in November 2007.
- 2.4. On 10 September 2007 I advised Cabinet that work was being progressively undertaken to obtain more detailed modelling on actual flooding risks and on the impact on South Australian coastal settlements.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1. In May 1991 the South Australian Government adopted the *Policy on Coast Protection and New Coastal Development*. This policy included allowances for sea level rise. South Australia was the first Australian state to include climate change adaptation in its policy framework.
- 3.2. The sea level rise allowances were 0.3m to 2050 and a further 0.7m to 2100 and this policy was incorporated into coastal Development Plans statewide in 1994 by a Ministerial Plan Amendment Report.
- 3.3. This policy has proven to be very robust. However, the outcomes of the IPCC's November 2007 Fourth Assessment report warrant a review of the policy.
- 3.4. The latest IPCC projections are for a global average sea level rise (SLR) of 0.18 – 0.59m by 2100, with a possible additional contribution from ice sheets of 0.1 – 0.2m. However further ice sheet contributions

may substantially increase the upper limit of sea level rise and the IPCC states that '*... the upper values of the ranges [of SLR tabled in its report] are not to be considered upper bounds for sea level rise.*'

- 3.5. Research published in 2007 has investigated relationships between SLR and global warming to project SLR by 2100 of 0.5 – 1.4m. A more complex analysis indicates rises of several metres might be possible.
- 3.6. A brief discussion of the impacts of significant SLR is included as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.7. The Board is forming a Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee to review its policy on climate change induced sea level rise and adaptation measures. Draft terms of reference for the Committee are included as **Appendix 2**.
- 3.8. The Board has accepted a number of nominations for membership of the Committee, included as **Appendix 3**. The Committee is expected to hold its first meeting in the first quarter of 2008.
- 3.9. The South Australian Flood Hazard Advisory Group and the Director, Policy in the Sustainability and Climate Change Office of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet will be kept informed throughout the review process.
- 3.10. Once the review and, if necessary, revision process has been completed, Government will be presented with the outcomes and proposals for consultation and liaison within Government and the community.

4. SUMMARY

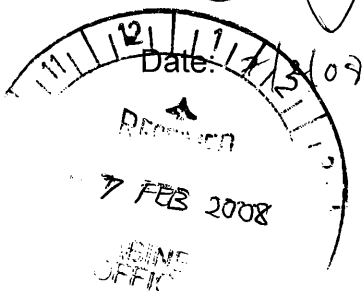
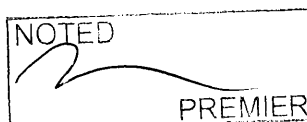
For Cabinet to note that:

- 4.1. The Coast Protection Board is commencing a review of its sea level rise policy in light of updated climate change projections and I will present Cabinet with the outcomes and proposals for consultation and liaison within Government and the community; and
- 4.2. The potentially severe implications of significant sea level rise.


HON GAIL GAGO MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

In Cabinet

11 FEB 2008



Implications of significant Sea Level Rise

The economic implications arising from the need to adapt to Sea Level Rise (SLR) are significant. Should an increase in the allowances for SLR be required to ensure the security and protection of development and infrastructure, the scope to site these on or near the coast will be narrowed. Such an increase would signify that protecting existing development and infrastructure will require greater investment than might have previously been considered. Only 0.3m of SLR will mean that a storm-induced sea level that would now only occur once every 100 years could be expected to occur every four to five years.

In 2006, a report for the Insurance Council of Australia identified 36,726 addresses in SA vulnerable to coastal inundation from a number of hazards, including sea level rise (which will exacerbate all other coastal flooding events). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects that: *'by 2050 ongoing coastal development and population growth in some areas of Australia and New Zealand are projected to exacerbate risks from sea level rise and increases in the severity and frequency of storms and coastal flooding.'*

A responsible, up-to-date policy position is required if South Australia is to avoid the worst impacts of SLR.

Appendix 2

Draft Terms of Reference, Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee

- a) Review Sea Level Rise (SLR) projections to at least 2100, with at least one target date of 2070;
- b) Collate SLR information relevant to South Australia, and liaise with other agencies and institutions;
- c) Provide recommendations to the Coast Protection Board (Board) on information required to assess SLR and its effects on coastal and marine regions of South Australia;
- d) Consider the adequacy of current adaptation measures in the Board's *Policy on coast protection and new coastal development, 1991*;
- e) Advise the Board on appropriate amendments, if required, to the policy;
- f) Assist the Board in the promulgation of, and consultation on, the policy, if required, and
- g) Ensure that the deliberations and recommendations of the committee remain confidential and that only spokespeople appointed by the Board communicate Board approved matters beyond the committee.

Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee as of 31 January 2008

- Chair - Mr Graham Foreman, Presiding Member, Coast Protection Board.
- Professor Barry Brook, Sir Hubert Wilkins Chair of Climate Change, The University of Adelaide, for his expertise in climate change-related matters;
- Dr Tom Wigley, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, for his expertise in meteorology and climate science (Dr Wigley is a major contributor to the science of climate change and the IPCC's deliberations and will be retiring to Adelaide in 2008).
- Professor Nick Harvey, Executive Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, The University of Adelaide, for his expertise in global change science and sea-level change, coastal geomorphology and coastal management;
- Mr Bill Mitchell, Manager National Tidal Centre, Bureau of Meteorology, for his expertise in oceanography and sea level monitoring;
- Ms Peri Coleman, Coast Protection Board, for her expertise in coastal biodiversity, coastal management and Board administration;
- Dr Murray Townsend, Manager Coastal Protection, for his expertise in coastal protection and management and the application of Board policy.
- Mr Andrew Milazzo, Executive Director, Transport Services Division for his expertise in public infrastructure.

Nominations are being sought from the Premier's Science and Research Council and the business community.