

minister could give us an update on what is being planned by the government to address this issue in the short term it would be appreciated.

Mr WOOD (Nelson): Mr Acting Speaker, I know that the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage is dying for me to say something, and I will. I congratulate the government on its environmental grants. They are a great idea and they certainly encourage young people to look at ways of improving their environment.

Howard Springs school has a cane toad-free garden. The kids who put it together enjoyed doing it and it is something they are very proud of. Children do become proud of those particular projects. It is very important.

This report is about environmental grants. It is a good concept. It is part of the overall education of children and especially in remote areas where they usually do not get a chance to do some of these things. It is a great initiative from the government and I support what the government is doing as regards to the environmental grants.

We will say something else on those other areas of environmental issues later today.

Reports noted.

VISITORS

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I advise honourable members of the presence in the gallery of visitors as part of the Parliament House Public Tour Program. On behalf of honourable members, I extend a warm welcome to our visitors.

Members: Hear, Hear!

DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION BILL (Serial 55)

Bill presented and read a first time.

Ms MARTIN (Chief Minister): Mr Acting Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

The Darwin Waterfront and Convention Centre Development includes three main elements: the Darwin Convention Centre with a 1500 seat plenary capacity and 4000 m² of exhibition space; community facilities including sea wall, wave lagoons, swimming areas, public promenade, parklands and picnic areas; and commercial developments including a Medina hotel, harbour side cafes and restaurants, and a staged residential development.

The community infrastructure components of the development will contain a number of public elements including the convention centre, swimming lagoons, a wave pool and sea wall. Infrastructure of this kind will require ongoing management, maintenance, and regulation.

The residential components of the development are staged with the first 141 units to be completed in 2008. The introduction of residents into the development in 2008 will necessitate the delivery of municipal services to the precinct. In this regard, the Territory has entered into arrangements with both the residential developer and the Darwin City Council under which the Territory has agreed to establish a statutory authority to, among other things, provide municipal services to the precinct.

This bill seeks to establish the Darwin Waterfront Corporation, a statutory corporation which will be responsible for these functions.

I now turn to the details of the bill. The development area, to be known as the Darwin Waterfront Precinct, will be severed from the municipality of Darwin and regulations made under the bill will define the areas of land forming the precinct. In the first instance, the corporation will be comprised of at least three but not more than seven members appointed by the minister. The minister will appoint a chairperson of the corporation. On the recommendation of the corporation, the minister will appoint a chief executive officer of the corporation who will be a member of that corporation and will exercise the powers and functions of the corporation under the direction of the members. The CEO will not be eligible for appointment as chairperson. The bill contains provisions which will provide the minister with powers to terminate the appointment of members in certain circumstances.

The general functions of the corporation as proposed in this bill include:

- to do anything for the development of the land within the precinct owned or controlled by it;
- to manage property in the precinct owned or controlled by it;
- to promote the precinct as a place of residence, and a venue for public events and entertainment;
- to preserve good order in the precinct;
- to do anything for the provision of municipal services in the precinct;