



## Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

### **Inquiry into Planning Bill 2022** **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Jo Clay MLA on 6 December 2022: Ms Sue Tongue took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 6 December 2022, pages 76-77

In relation to: Definition of Ecologically Sustainable Development

**THE CHAIR:** Can I ask about a very small thing that has quite big implications? I believe in your submission you talk about the definition of ecologically sustainable development. Have I got my notes right? Was that one of the things that came up? And if not, I will move to something else. All desperately—no?

**Ms Tongue:** We did talk about it.

**Dr Denham:** Yes.

**THE CHAIR:** Yes. We have not actually—the reason I raise it is it is a topic that came up in a lot of different submissions. We have not yet spoken about it; we have spoken about quite a lot of things. And I am just wondering if you had concerns about the current definition that we have got in there of what ecologically sustainable development is?

**Ms Tongue:** It is defined as achievement of economic growth and prosperity, which is intuitively a very odd definition and so when we looked at that, we thought it needed better definition.

**THE CHAIR:** Yes. And how would you change it? Would you—

**Ms Tongue:** We will take that on notice, I think.

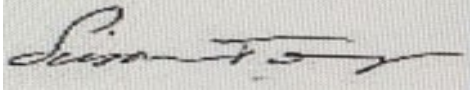
Ms Sue Tongue: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

*Ecologically sustainable development means using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased.*

This definition is from the Northern Territory *Fisheries Act 1988* s.4(1). It could replace the more cumbersome, s.9(1) in the proposed Bill. The proposed principles contained in subsections (a) to (e) of that section could be included in the Explanatory Memorandum and/or Second Reading Speech to provide guidance to decision makers applying the Act.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Susanne Tongue'.

Date: 9 December 2022

By Susanne (Sue) Tongue, Vice President, Griffith Narrabundah Community Association