

SECOND READING SPEECH

WHALES PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL 2012

Mr Speaker, I move that the Bill be read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to make a minor amendment to the Whales Protection Act 1988. The amendment will expand the head of power of the Act to regulate human interactions with whales and dolphins.

The amendment supports an agreement between the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments for a legislative framework managing human interactions with whales and dolphins. Advice received by my Department has revealed that the head of power under the Whales Protection Act is not sufficient to allow for the creation of the required regulations, and amendments to the Act are required.

This Government is committed to enhancing the protection available to whales and dolphins and this amendment takes an important step towards achieving this goal.

The amendment will create the legislative capacity to implement the National Guidelines on Whale and Dolphin Watching, and this amendment will allow Tasmania to satisfy its national commitments.

The amendment also supports the emerging whale watching industry in Tasmania and ensures that this industry remains sustainable. Supporting the sustainable growth of this industry is expected to bring benefits to local communities, and will contribute to the widely held community support for whale and dolphin conservation.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.