



# Media Release

## Senator Alan Eggleston

### Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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24 May 2007

#### **LACK OF TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM PUTS NORTHWEST AT RISK: SENATOR**

The safety of citizens and business in the Northwest is at risk because there is no tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean, WA Senator Alan Eggleston said today.

Senator Eggleston said he was dismayed to learn at Budget Estimates that there is currently no deep-ocean warning buoy system in the Indian Ocean which would give ample caution to the Northwest in case of a tsunami.

“The Northwest has been identified as one of two Australian areas most at risk of tsunami, the other being the south-east coast,” Senator Eggleston said.

“This is worrying because the lives of Northwest citizens are at risk.

“It was only through pure luck that the Boxing Day Tsunami did not hit the WA coast with the same force that washed away many regions of Sri Lanka, India and Africa.”

Senator Eggleston also pointed out the economic importance of Pilbara ports and the need to protect our lucrative mining and agriculture industry which largely resides in the area.

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, one deep-ocean warning buoy has already been deployed between New Zealand and Australia and there is a plan to deploy another two off the WA coast.

“Given the east coast is largely protected by the Barrier Reef, one would have assumed more precedence would have went to first deploying a buoy off the more vulnerable Northwest coast,” Senator Eggleston said.

One of the deep-ocean warning buoys being deployed to protect WA will go between the Sunda Strait and Australia. This buoy will give the Northwest at least 90 minutes warning in the event of a tsunami.

Senator Eggleston said that until these buoys are deployed off the WA coast, our state will remain vulnerable.