



# Media Release

## Senator Alan Eggleston

### Liberal Senator for Western Australia

---

10 July 2008

## Senator challenges Garrett to come clean on research buoys

More than six months after their scheduled installation, valuable tsunami warning research buoys have yet to be installed off the West Australian Coast, according to WA Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston.

"I have contacted Mr Garrett, demanding an explanation over why these buoys, which were scheduled to be in place by the end of last year, are still missing in action," Senator Eggleston said.

The Senator raised his concerns in December last year, and again during Budget Estimates earlier this year, however the Rudd Government failed on both occasions to specify when the buoys would finally be put in place.

"The longer the Rudd Government delays this technology, the greater the risk coastal communities of Western Australia are at," Senator Eggleston said.

Senator Eggleston said he continues to be deeply concerned by the Rudd Labor Government's lack of action to secure an effective tsunami warning system for the coastal communities of Western Australia.

Two research buoys were scheduled to be installed in the Indian Ocean by the end of 2007 as a warning system to alert west coast communities of seismic activity.

"Coastal communities of Western Australia deserve the protection and piece of mind that this valuable warning system provides, and it is absolutely vital we continue to support and further develop the system for potential threats in the future."

The West Australian coastline between Port Hedland and Dunsborough was directly affected by the 2003 tsunami, which sunk boats in Geraldton and Rockingham and washed people off sandbanks.

Senator Eggleston said the recent seismic activity in Western Australia, such as the earthquake north of Kalgoorlie today, highlighted the urgency of the need for this technology.

**Ends**