



## **LIZ PENFOLD MP VISITS WIND POWER AND DESALINATION PLANTS IN INDIA** **21 January 2003**

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said India was way ahead of South Australia in the generation of electricity by windpower and desalination of water.

“We can tap into the world-class technology they are using to develop projects in our state,” she said.

Mrs Penfold was invited to visit Indian windpower and desalination plants by Mr Jacob Cherian whose company is one of the proponents for these plants on Eyre Peninsula.

A reverse osmosis desalination plant at Chennai, designed by Dorr-Oliver for an oil refinery, was the second in the world to convert partly processed sewage to potable water. The plant produces 12 megalitres daily compared with the current Eyre Peninsula needs of five megalitres a day.

Mrs Penfold discussed reverse osmosis plants for the Tod reservoir and for seawater, and was advised that the anticipated cost would be less than \$2 per litre even for seawater.

“The new membranes for reverse osmosis mean that they have a long life and can be readily cleaned when needed without releasing contaminants into the environment.

“The cost of the membranes themselves has dropped dramatically,” she said.

She said desalination was gaining in popularity across the world with Saudi Arabia, for instance, now providing 30% of its water from desalination of seawater.

Mrs Penfold said that Mr Cherian, as a result of her visit to India, has arranged for Mr J R D Rajakumar, General Manager of Aban Energies PTY Ltd who is an expert in wind power generation, and a representative from Dorr-Oliver regarding desalination requirements, to visit South Australia in February.