



**Penfold to retire in 2010
8 January 2007**

Member for Flinders, Mrs. Liz Penfold announced today that she will not contest the next election and has stood down from her shadow portfolios to enable a new shadow minister to gain experience before the next State Election in 2010.

“I will be 63 in 2010 and I have decided that it will be time then to stand aside to enable a new member to take on the challenge of representing the people of this wonderful electorate.”

“I am relinquishing my portfolio responsibilities that cover the whole of the State so for the next 3 years I can put all my energies into issues affecting Eyre Peninsula and the 22,000 voters that I am responsible for.”

“My staff and I have been part of some huge changes in the region since I was elected in 1993 and I expect to see more exciting developments in the next three years.”

“In 1993 the aquaculture industry was in its infancy and Eyre Peninsula has paved the way for many species including oysters, tuna, mussels and abalone, pioneering new licences and laws for the whole of the State. The first marine lease that was accepted as equity by a bank was a huge break through and took years of work. The Marine Science Centre was a dream but recently received another \$6million funding for expansion and there's more to come.

On Eyre Peninsula we had the two longest unsealed rural arterial roads in the State and very few locals thought they would ever be sealed. When I officially opened the last one, the Lock to Elliston road, I watched grown men cry.

Wind energy was a virtually unknown in Australia and I was told it was ‘pie in the sky Liz’. Now South Australia leads the nation and on most days Eyre Peninsula runs on 100% wind energy from two large farms.

The ferry was another project that has finally come to fruition with a leased ferry currently in operation until the new, bigger, faster ferry starts next month with a second one due by December this year allowing 16 trips across the gulf per day for people, vehicles and freight.

I expect, in the next few years, to see the first seawater desalination plants taking the pressure off the underground resources and enabling basins to regenerate.

Mining will add a new dimension to the region and will assist in upgrading railways, ports and roads and providing hundreds more jobs.”

In the future we will see jets coming into new and upgraded Port Lincoln and Ceduna Airports with tourism booming.

“It is a very exciting time to be the Member for Flinders and I thank the people of the region for allowing me the honour and privilege of being their member in our State Parliament.