



**Opportunity Lost -
New Port Lincoln Police/Court Complex/ Emergency Operations Centre
16 February 2005**

Mrs. Liz Penfold, Member for Flinders has welcomed the decision to go ahead with the long awaited and much needed new Police HQ, Court Complex and Emergency operations Centre in Port Lincoln but questions the use of the existing police station site in The CBD.

"I ask the Minister Mr. Conlon to reconsider the location because there is a green fields site on Porter Street, available from the railways that would have better vehicle access, be much more efficient and would cost less thereby freeing up funding to do more." she said.

Mrs Penfold believes that there is an opportunity to locate the proposed Police station, courts, and emergency operations centre along with the MFS, CFS and SES that also need rehousing, on the Porter Street sites.

"The site on Porter street known as the railway triangle was to be used for the co-location of the CFS and the MFS however it could be used to house the SES and the CFS with the MFS being co-located on the other side of the street along with the proposed emergency operations centre, the police headquarters and the courts," she said.

"It makes a lot of sense to have these buildings all together so that operations rooms, conference rooms, recreation rooms, communication towers, vehicle storage and maintenance are all in one place and all on one level. There will be a lot of expensive duplication in having a number of different sites for these services. Having the police Head quarters, courts and the emergency communications centre on the small police station site will also mean different levels requiring lifts. There is also the potential for water problems from the high water table in the area, as expensive under croft parking will probably be required and finally there is no room for expansion in the future," she said.

Mrs Penfold said that the Port Lincoln City Council has been developing a plan for the long term future of the city and should be involved in the decisions. "Will the council have an opportunity to have input into where these buildings are to be located or can the Government by-pass council as they have been doing with their decisions about the long term future of the Port Lincoln Schools?" she asks.

Mrs Penfold also asks, "Will the old heritage listed courthouse which is one of the few historic buildings left in Port Lincoln, stay?"

The existing site could be sold for small business and tourism for which they are more suited and the funds of potentially around \$3 million used to help pay for the larger complex. "I would like to see the old Court House kept and perhaps turned into a place with outside tables and lawns in the centre of town where locals and tourists could drop in and soak up some history." she said.