



**PORT LINCOLN PRISON NO PARTY
18 June 2007**

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold accuses the Labor Government and union members of concocting a story and acting like a lynch mob to get rid of Di Cooper, the highly experienced and well respected manager of the Port Lincoln prison.

“Why else would the union, that would normally come out fighting in strong support of one of their own, be part of lynching her?” she said.

Mrs Penfold said that rehabilitation of prisoners is the aim of custodial sentences.

“Through the resourcefulness and commitment to rehabilitation of the manager Di Cooper, prisoners and staff at the Port Lincoln prison were a fantastic resource for the Lower Eyre Peninsula community in the recovery after the bushfire.

“In fact, through this work some secured employment upon release, proof that the way the prison and inmates were managed was a success story in rehabilitation that all prisons could copy,” she said.

The prison has been formally recognised publicly for their bushfire recovery efforts.

Another example of community effort included predawn cleaning of the Port Lincoln foreshore during the Tunarama festival.

“Many of the inmates at the Port Lincoln Prison are nearing the end of their sentences and are entering the pre-release stage where integration back into the community is the next step.

“The Minister would know that the event, that is the basis of the negative publicity, against Ms Cooper was not for the entertainment of guests but for the inmates themselves, only went till 9pm and that there was no alcohol. In fact the Minister knows that a female warden, and not the manager, has been stood down for providing alcohol that was unrelated to these events.”

“It is amazing that such an inaccurate story and misleading photos were allowed to be circulated in the media unless it was to ensure that public sentiment was against the manager and with the government.”

“I am disgusted that this character assassination is being perpetrated against someone who cannot defend herself and no one else is in a position of full understanding to do it for her.

“I was at the Zonta Club Christmas party held at the jail and there was no entertainment as was inferred on the front page of the Advertiser Friday May 18th 2007.” ENDS