



**Power infrastructure stalls progress  
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The state government's intention to triple exports by 2015 could be sunk because of the inadequacy of power infrastructure in regional South Australia particularly on Eyre Peninsula.

That was one of the points made by Member for Flinders Liz Penfold in a submission to ElectraNet's discussion paper on transmission limitations in the lower Eyre Peninsula's 132kV supply region.

"Development, industry, housing, mining proposals are all being restricted or deferred because of the incapacity of current infrastructure," she said.

"A number of on-land abalone farms are expanding to increase supply to an apparently insatiable Asian market however this expansion could be stalled if there is insufficient power for refrigeration and freezing to market the produce.

"When other aquaculture industries are also considered, the state government's aim to triple exports will be undermined since Eyre Peninsula currently produces 65% of the state's seafood," she said.

Mrs Penfold is deeply concerned that heat tolerance augmentations on the lines from Whyalla to Port Lincoln through the Yadnarie substation are the only improvements on the agenda until 2013/2014 except for a small upgrade at Cowell.

The discussion paper mentions an increase in generation to supply One Steel at Whyalla but ignores mining development such as iron ore and coal at Lock in the Gawler Craton which takes in Eyre Peninsula.

Mrs Penfold said the Whyalla to Port Lincoln line has already been identified by the Electricity Supply Industry Planning Council (ESIPC) as needing replacement (although no plans for replacement exist).

She proposed that, instead of replacing this line, a second line be built from Wudinna down through Poldia along the west coast of Eyre Peninsula to Port Lincoln substation to provide triangulation and the security of a second line.

This would enable the state government's strategic plan for exports to be fulfilled while also advancing environmentally friendly practices and encouraging innovation in the state's power providers.

"The long term power demands for Eyre Peninsula would be met initially by a triangulated line from Wudinna to Port Lincoln to supply increased industrial, domestic and mining usage while kicking off the development of more wind farms that will also encourage the development of desalination plants.

"It would be a win-win outcome for everyone," she said. ENDS