

# **Member for Flinders Liz Penfold MP**

## **Parliamentary Travel Report**

**Western Australia 19-29 July 2006**

### **Objectives of travel:**

As Member for Flinders, and in my role as Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Small Business and Consumer Affairs, I visited south western Western Australia to predominantly to investigate mining and shipping facilities, issues pertinent to Eyre Peninsula and South Australia.

Eyre Peninsula, located within the world renown Gawler Craton (one of the most significant mineralisations in the world) is poised for mining development. With the global increase in the value of minerals, mining on Eyre Peninsula has become viable and could double or even triple its income to the State very quickly.

Much of the necessary infrastructure to support the mining industry is already in place but needs upgrading and extending to accommodate new industry. Power, water, roads, railway, ports, people and housing need to be planned now for an increase of thousands of jobs, to mine, transport and potentially process millions of tonnes of minerals.

I took the opportunity to look at Iluka's mining and rehabilitated sites and view port facilities in Esperance where grain and minerals are loaded simultaneously.

I also met with Dr. Graham Jacobs, Member for Roe with the State Western Australian parliament and discussed similarities and opportunities within our electorates.

### **Itinerary**

While in Perth I visited Romex Australia Pty. Ltd., manufacturers of people and vehicle electronic entry and exit systems for venues and car parks. Use of these systems by sporting complexes in South Australia may increase profitability by reducing fraud. They also reduce the need for volunteers to spend long hours manning gates. These systems can be seen in operation at the Flinders Medical Centre car parks in Adelaide.



Iluka Mining Resources mineral sands mining and processing facilities in Capel

Bunbury was next on my itinerary. I met Geoff Richards, Manager, Government Relations for Iluka Resources Limited and toured the town's processing, storage and port facilities. We discussed issues relating to the mining of mineral sands and processing at Capel and shipping out from Bunbury. Significant upgrades are being planned for the Bunbury Port which is currently old and inefficient. We inspected aerial photos of the mining area and I was briefed on Iluka's mining processes and practices. We toured the mine site and later sites undergoing rehabilitation back to farm land. High bunds have been erected to reduce noise issues in the neighborhood. After mining, rehabilitation is carried out to reintroduce top soil from where it has been stock piled. A soil mixture of sand and clay to improve productivity is spread so that land can be farmed again.



Pictured left, mining land being rehabilitated with a sand/clay/soil mixture, pictured right, rehabilitated land.

We then toured the processing facilities which were amazingly clean and tidy where safety was obviously a high priority in the design. Iluka Resources Ltd are highly professional operators and I believe we will be fortunate to have Iluka operating mines in South Australia. The issues they have overcome in Western Australia are very similar to those in South Australia. These mines however have advantages not available here, for instance water is not a problem at this mine as there are large quantities of aquifer water, power is readily available and road infrastructure is good. [www.iluka.com](http://www.iluka.com)



A development currently being undertaken in Bunbury is the conversion of the cement grain silos into housing units. This may be an option for silos in South Australia where they become redundant.

Pictured left is the silo housing development under construction.

Busselton has a two kilometre jetty, said to be the longest in the Southern Hemisphere. Unfortunately the in-sea aquarium at the end was closed however I would like to see something similar on Eyre Peninsula featuring seahorses in particular. This would be a great tourist attraction but also a way to show off the aquaculture industry to local and international investors and consumers.

Travelling back to Fremantle along the coast road, there are an amazing number of walled housing enclaves built or being built right along the coast showing the growth occurring in this regional area.

In Fremantle I met with former Port Lincoln water engineer Cecil Forbes. He was an excellent source of information regarding the water issues facing Western Australia which are very similar to those we have in South Australia. He was amazed that SAWater are spending \$48.5 million to bring 1.4 gigalitres per year of river Murray water to Eyre Peninsula when desalination at Ceduna could provide quality water in greater quantities for less, limited pumping costs, no need for a pipeline and enable the development of the mining and housing in the region.

We toured developments south of Fremantle showcasing examples of what could be implemented in South Australia.

Also in Fremantle I attended the Australian Uranium Conference.

Martin Ferguson AM MP the Federal Labor Shadow Minister for Primary Industry, Resources, Forestry and Tourism, was the Keynote Speaker on 'Australia's Uranium Resources – Strategic Leadership'. Hon. Colin Barnett the Member for Cottesloe in the Parliament of Western Australia, spoke brilliantly on 'Uranium: When Politics Gets in the Way of Development'

My parliamentary speech on uranium and thorium can be found under speeches on [www.lizpenfold.com.au](http://www.lizpenfold.com.au)

In Esperance I met with Colin Stewart, CEO of the Esperance Port Authority followed by an informative tour of the facility with Richard Grant, Community Relations Manager. Esperance Port Authority, a government owned instrumentality, have reclaimed significant land to develop additional facilities. Significant funds, in the order of \$½ billion, have been spent to put in modern conveyors, sheds with negative pressure that allows no dust to escape into the



Pictured above Liz Penfold and Richard Grant standing on reclaimed land with the port facilities in the background

surrounding environment. They are a template for the kind of development we will need in Port Lincoln and Thevenard if we are to take minerals out through these wharves.

The grain and iron ore gantries are within meters of one another but there have been no problems with contamination.

There is a gas fired power station on site with area close by for a proposed private enterprise desalination plant to provide desalinated sea water to be piped to the Kalgoorlie minefields.

In Esperance I visited wind farms and had ABC radio interviews with Port Pirie and Esperance stations.

Meeting with Dr Graham Jacobs MLA, State Government Member for Roe to discuss mining industries in the region, barley marketing, private school establishment and the lack of a significant fishing industry, was enlightening. [www.grahamjacobs.com.au](http://www.grahamjacobs.com.au)

The establishment of tuna farms are still under discussion in the region which would appear to be ideally suited.

There are a great many similarities between our two regions and I encourage people from Eyre Peninsula to visit Esperance.

On my return to Adelaide I attended an Infrastructure Summit run by the South Australia Chamber of Mines and Energy followed by a Special Briefing Resource Industry Workforce Planning session presented by SACOME and the SA Government, which given my experience in Western Australia was timely and valuable.

The similarities between South Australia and Western Australia show that we have great opportunities for growth in the mining industry.