



# *Liz Penfold* MP

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Date: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Hon Patrick Conlon MP  
Minister for Transport  
GPO Box 2969  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Mrs. Jane Lomax Smith  
Minister for Tourism  
GPO Box 1152  
ADELAIDE 5001

Hon Karlene Maywald  
Minister for Regional Development  
GPO Box 645  
ADELAIDE 5001

Dear Patrick, Jane and Karlene,

The ferry proposal between Wallaroo and Lucky Bay is an exciting development for regional South Australia, Eyre and York Peninsula businesses, residents and tourists. It will save approximately 660 kilometers of driving, saving in time, about six and a half hours at least if you are going to Adelaide and back. It is estimated that the ferry trip will take about an hour and three quarters and people will be able to sit on the ferry in air-conditioned comfort, eat in the restaurant, read a book, watch television or go out on the deck rather than sitting in a car, wearing out the roads, polluting the environment and risking their lives.

I am disappointed it has taken so long for the ferry to be approved. The summer tourist season has been missed and now the opening will be in winter when the roads are wet and tourist activity is low. However the delay does give time for the State Government to assist with funding to seal the nearly 12 km section of road from Lucky Bay to Lincoln Highway before the ferry commences.

The proponents Sea Transport SA Pty Ltd ([www.seaeyre.com](http://www.seaeyre.com)), experienced ferry owners and operators, have not asked for Government assistance. They have been remarkably patient and have committed a considerable amount of time and money to this project. I believe assistance with the sealing of the road would be tangible support for the ferry and the people of Eyre and York Peninsula by your Government.

The expected cost is \$1.5 million. Currently however Department of Transport equipment is located just south of Port Neil on the Lincoln Highway so there will be very little cost in

relocating some of it to the Lucky Bay road and there may be economies of scale that can be made by combining the two projects. The Franklin Harbor Council has already committed to put funding in.

There will be considerable savings to the Government over time on the road maintenance between Port Wakefield and Cowell. The ferry operators have undertaken considerable studies into road movements and conclude that 500,000 road vehicles pass the Lincoln Highway per annum at Cowell and a further 500,000 use the Eyre Highway between Ceduna and Adelaide annually.

The reduced driving time will not only be a cost saving for businesses but also improve road safety, reduce wear and tear on vehicles and roads and will also be a plus for the environment.

Tourism is a significant contributor to the economy of Eyre Peninsula and the finalizing of the ferry project will help overcome the impression that Eyre Peninsula is isolated and that it is too far away to visit for a weekend. Sealing the road will help ensure motorist's safety as many of them would not have experienced driving on dirt roads and it will encourage buses, trucks and hire cars that may not otherwise utilise the ferry during the winter months.

I ask that you support the sealing of the road before the ferry is operational as it is such an important part of the success of the overall project which is expected to provide two ferries with carrying capacity for 10 trucks, 50 cars and 350 passengers crossing 16 times per day when fully operational.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Penfold', written in a cursive style.

**Mrs. Liz Penfold MP**