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Our Ref:STM1W1:AC04

Date:

Mr. Ian Burfitt,
Chief Executive Officer
City of Port Lincoln
PO Box 1787
PORT LINCOLN 5606

Dear Ian,

RE: Public Access – Brennans Jetty, Port Lincoln

Thank you for your letter dated 22nd June 2004 that I understand was sent to all Members of Parliament. I support the City of Port Lincoln's stand regarding the repair of Brennan's Jetty. According to the sale agreement it is clearly the responsibility of the State Government and Flinders Ports to maintain it for use by recreational fishers. I enclose a recent question and response from Hansard regarding this issue that may be of interest.

However I once again point out that I do not see Brennans jetty as a long-term solution for recreational fishers. Even if it is repaired it will become more and more dangerous to access being part of a commercial wharf that will become even busier and compounded by the car park being located on the other side of the entrance.

In the next few years we will see access to the wharf by trains as a faster unloading system is instigated. This new system will help to get better prices for our grain and make our farmers more viable in a very competitive grains market. Contracts for iron ore, coal and mineral sands from Eyre Peninsula are currently being negotiated and will help to provide much needed jobs in the region keeping some of our small communities and their business's, schools and hospitals viable. One day in the not too distant future, these minerals will need to be shipped out through Port Lincoln over the wharf.

I am still hopeful that the Lukin development and the old BHP wharf will take some of the pressure of the main wharf however the fishing industry and the tourist industry will continue to grow and require space somewhere. Inevitably the main city wharf will continue to be popular with both these industries.

Because of these activities putting additional pressure on the wharf, I ask Council to take a long term view of the situation. The Brennans jetty issue I believe gives us an opportunity to look at the number one berth or the spur as it is known, with a view to it becoming the recreational jetty for fishers in the future replacing Brennans jetty.

Peter Mitchell from Eyre Regional Development Board believes that if the Council will not take responsibility for the spur that it would be possible to put a proposal forward that would be attractive for a private investor for commercial purposes but allowing some recreational and tourist access. Any proposal would need to be supported by the State Government and Council to enable the necessary approvals and planning requirements to be assessed and fulfilled.

I believe with the good will of the State Government, Council and Flinders Ports the community could have an asset that would provide safe recreational and tourist access close to, but not part of the wharf.

I think that Flinders Ports, knowing the long-term difficulties of public access from the car park, would be pleased to assist with some funding and in-kind support. The trade off of Brennans Jetty to Flinders Ports would put the responsibility for the use and maintenance of it back where it belongs.

Transport SA are the current owners of the spur and sooner or later will have the responsibility to remove or repair it at an estimated cost of \$1m; surely they could also be a contributor to its repair. The provision of public access from the other end of the silos, upgrading part of the spur and/or a boardwalk along the rocks with perhaps pontoons out to the spur and the spur cut off from the main wharf would provide a wonderful and safe platform for everyone.

Your consideration of facilitating ERDB to put a proposal together and asking for expressions of interest would be appreciated if council still does not want to take responsibility for the spur. A long-term solution and a new rateable entity would be of benefit to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. Liz Penfold MP

cc. All Members of State Parliament
ERDB
Flinders Ports
Media

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Friday 25 June 2004

BRENNAN'S JETTY

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Industry, Trade and Regional Development a question about Brennan's Jetty.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Today I received correspondence (as did other members) from the CEO of the City of Port Lincoln, Mr Ian Burfitt, regarding the threat to public access to Brennan's Jetty at Port Lincoln. It has been discovered that 48 of the 60 piles beneath the jetty are 30 per cent solid or less. The need for repairs, which will cost some \$350 000, was described in correspondence on 18 November 2003 as 'immediate'. Under the recreational access agreement between the council and Flinders Ports, which was required as part of the sale, Flinders Ports carries public liability risk insurance to the value of \$50 million. The letter states that the council was advised that the state government had accepted public liability on structural maintenance, as well as lighting, safety barriers and fencing.

An agreement was reached between the state government and Flinders Ports to ensure access for 100 years, and this would ensure compliance with section 17(2) of the South Australian Ports (Disposal of Maritime Assets) Act 2000, which provides:

The purpose of a recreational access agreement is to preserve or enhance access by the public, free of charge, to land and facilities to which the sale/lease agreement applies.

My questions are:

1. Does the minister agree that the government has a responsibility to provide public access for recreational fishing and other activities?
2. Is he concerned about the potential impact upon the community of Port Lincoln of a closure of the wharf?
3. Does he agree that this will have a negative impact on tourism potential?
4. What action will the minister take to fix this problem?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Industry, Trade and Regional Development): I will refer that question to my colleague and bring back a reply. However, I am certainly aware of the need for such measures because it was an opposition amendment—I think I moved it—when the bill supporting the sale of the ports was before the council. I think we moved amendments to ensure that there would be reasonable access in relation to activities such as recreational fishing. We actually moved those amendments. I will refer the question to the minister and bring back a reply.



EXISTING
CAR PARK

CURRENT
BRENNAN'S
JETTY
TO BE
GIVEN TO

FLINDERS
PORTS
IN RETURN FOR
ASSISTANCE
WITH THE SPUR
AND REPAIR OF
BRENNAN'S JETTY

CUT THE
SPUR

RECLAIM LAND
FOR
CAR PARK

POSSIBLE BOARD WALK

RETAIN A PORTION OF THE SPUR
WITH CONNECTING PONTOONS
USING EXISTING METAL PILES