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**SUBMISSION TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
**Presiding Member Ms Vini Ciccarello, Members, Mr. Tom Kenyon,**  
**Mr. Michael Pengilly, Mr. David Pisoni, Hon Trish White**

### **PORT LINCOLN FIRE STATION**

I recognise and appreciate the need for a new fire station in Port Lincoln.

However I have concerns regarding the siting of the proposed station being considered by the Public Works Committee given that the plans for the Fire Station also include the future development of the expanded site for a SES/CFS facility. This is not yet before the Committee however the whole project should be assessed together and opportunities for joint usage and the needs for future expansion and communication issues should all be considered.

I believe it is essential that Committee members are made aware of the “bigger picture” opportunity that is possible before granting approval and I appreciate the opportunity to make comment before it is too late for a more suitable site to be considered and while there is nothing yet ‘physically’ on the site.

In theory a combined MFS/SES/CFS facility can well serve the needs of the Port Lincoln community and I would fully support a combined facility on an alternative site. The Port Lincoln City Council also opposes this particular site (when viewed as a joint facility). Council needs the former netball courts site to replace the city’s current substandard tennis courts that are proposed to be upgraded to tournament standard.

There are other viable alternative sites currently available for a combined emergency services facility. Port Lincoln City Council know exactly what is possible, however at a glance, the area known as the Railway Reserve is crown land immediately available that would be large enough to accommodate all operations.

However it should be noted that the communication towers for all police and emergency services will continue to be located on the existing SES site that is on high land

overlooking the city. This site has only recently become available to purchase as the proposed Christian school, which had been planned for the site, will never receive approval to situate themselves there. The site will still have to be rented by emergency services (at an extra cost if not co-located), just to maintain access to the police and emergency services communication towers. This site has plenty of room for future expansion, can accommodate the new emergency patrol boat and has sufficient area for the training of personnel. It is in my opinion, the best option.

I have enclosed maps of the sites for your consideration.

The proposed site, before the Committee, takes in a section (approximately 5200 square metres) of the former netball courts that was purchased from the Port Lincoln City Council. I understand that the purchase price would be refunded to MFS should they relocate in a combined facility somewhere else.

An SES/CFS facility of 7500 square metres is proposed to join the MFS property and extend around existing clubrooms on the former netball courts site. This land is reclaimed designated park (under Colonel Light's original plan for the city) and is now crown land formerly under control of Port Lincoln City Council.

The reclaimed crown land (for the proposed SES/CFS facility) is required by the Port Lincoln City Council to build 18 new tennis courts for the community (the current courts are considered unsafe and in urgent need of replacement). Their plan for tennis courts on this site is practical and financially more favourable because the land is already flat and the existing "netball" clubroom building would be the centrepiece, thereby saving the community approximately \$300,000 for a clubroom/administration facility.

Unfortunately as a result of the acquisition by the crown for the SES/CFS facility, as it presently stands, there will only be sufficient space for 12 courts and absolutely no room for the emergency services centre to expand. The Port Lincoln City Council will have to build the other 6 courts on another site, splitting the community tennis courts and costing the community substantially much more.

I am also concerned that the proposed site of the combined emergency services precinct will compound problems in an area that is already a congested traffic hazard because of the proximity of the Primary School, Kindergarten, Aboriginal Children's Centre and after hours school care.

For Committee's information and consideration, the Education Department is locating Port Lincoln's new child minding centre and out of school hours care at the Kirton Point education precinct thereby compounding traffic problems in this area. A new Lutheran School is presently under construction closer to the Marina but also accessed by Stevenson Street thereby further compounding traffic.

It is proposed, that the new combined services centre, will be located nearby to this education hub at Kirton Point and along the route that is the main access to the Marina residential and fishing area.

While the location of the proposed combined facility is considered roughly 'central' within the town, this creates problems in emergency situations and will not necessarily be 'central' when the road is cut and relocated further around to enable the marina to expand. CFS and SES volunteers will have to pass at least one school possibly two, cross a railway or pass over a bridge to even get to this location at Kirton Point. Once assembled they will then have to go to the emergency which if it isn't close by will mean having to traverse the same set of hurdles in reverse to leave the area. The potential difficulties and delays that will be encountered if an emergency occurs around 8.30am or 3.30 pm on a school day as children, parents and buses are leaving the school, kindergartens or child care centre could be crucial.

The freight railway line and Stevenson Street, the major road to the wharf precinct, dissect Kirton Point from the rest of the city. Stevenson Street passes between the school and kindergarten and the proposed emergency services site. This route is used by the fishing industry to access the wharf from factories on Proper Bay. The area is also extensively used by various fishing industries to and from the Marina.

Nearby roads and the railway, bring approximately 40% of the state's grain into the silos at the wharf ready for export during harvest time. Fertilizer is trucked from the wharf to the Pivot site nearby with trucks later collecting fertilizer for delivery to farms.

The mining industry is investigating a huge expansion in this same area, increasing potential congestion with trains and/or trucks possibly arriving every 18 minutes.

The site where the proposed emergency services centre is to be located is on the major route for the swelling numbers of families living in the marina area – all accessing the city precinct and using the facilities.

Tourism alone is increasing quickly with cruise ships now coming into the marina and soon to the wharf. The new Port Lincoln Hotel is bringing in more and more visitors and Virgin Airlines are looking at bringing in flights from Sydney and Melbourne.

If there was an emergency at the airport or anywhere on the northern side of Port Lincoln, the service vehicles would have to negotiate their way right across the centre of the city which would be a nightmare. We are already experiencing traffic jams on the Lincoln Highway at peak times in mornings and evenings.

The city of Port Lincoln is growing and I am expecting that it will more than double in size within my lifetime. Unfortunately with the recent growth in the city, forward planning has struggled to stay abreast. There is however a window of opportunity for the combined emergency services centre to locate where there is room to expand at a better site that should not be missed.

In parliament on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008, The Minister for Emergency Services Carmel Zollo, in answer to a question regarding the combined facility, said,

The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO (Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Road Safety, Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:58): The issue of building a new emergency services centre for Port Lincoln has gone on for very many years. Certainly, the government has made its intentions clear for quite some time. The site to which the honourable member refers, where the new emergency services centre will be built, is currently vacant and comprises old asphalt tennis courts that

are in a state of disrepair. The site is overgrown with weeds and littered with rubble. As recently as December last year the government was advised that the council supported the use of this land. It is crown land, and it has been rededicated to me by the minister (Hon. Gail Gago). I do not need to emphasise in this place how important the new emergency services precinct is for Port Lincoln, and ensuring the best delivery of emergency services to the Port Lincoln community in the future.

While Council did initially support a combined facility, this was prior to the government acquiring significantly more land for a much bigger combined complex than was initially considered and the Kirton Point site is no longer considered the best location for the delivery of emergency services to Port Lincoln and the 'surrounding' community (not just Port Lincoln because it will also cover the outlying areas including the airport).

I live in Port Lincoln and I know many of the dedicated members involved with emergency services, particularly volunteers in SES and CFS. These volunteers, who live and work in this community, know what they want. However they are being dictated to by their metropolitan bureaucratic hierarchy. It makes no sense to local people to have communication towers on an ongoing costly 'rented' site well away from their operational and training centres with no room for future expansion. I urge the Committee to take these concerns into consideration before approving the Port Lincoln Fire Station.

In Summary:

- Combined emergency services facilities makes good sense.
- Current proposed site is limited - more suitable land is available for combined facilities elsewhere – with room to expand if necessary.
- Communications towers will never go on current site – SAFECOM will continue to lease land for towers – for police, MFS, SES and CFS - an ongoing cost to the government /agencies. What will this cost be?
- Port Lincoln City Council require the 'former' netball site for continued sporting use i.e. tournament standard tennis courts which is far more appropriate community use.
- Congestion of traffic for emergency service vehicles at peak periods will be an issue.

I have no doubt at all that new facilities are needed but believe there are sites and opportunities as suggested that make much more sense for the long term, than the one currently proposed.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs. Liz Penfold MP**  
*Member for Flinders*

