



Today I congratulate all those people involved in the fantastic Lincoln Marine Science Centre expansion completed late 2008 and officially opened on 18 March 2009. In particular, I thank Dr Rob Lewis and Professor Chris Marlin who have supported since its inception this wonderful regional facility despite significant pressure to centralise facilities in Adelaide. The Lincoln Marine Science Centre is a state-of-the-art, modern, temperate marine species research and education facility that has provided the fishing and aquaculture industries in this country with countless benefits.

Many industry workers, marine biologists and scientists, students and teachers have passed through its doors, leaving with an extended knowledge and appreciation of our sustainable industries. In my inaugural speech in 1994 I spoke of my vision of a centre of excellence, particularly to provide tertiary education for the fishing and aquaculture industries of Eyre Peninsula in the future. In my speech I said that I would like to see Flinders University develop a full university campus in Port Lincoln offering a degree specialising in marine studies instead of losing our students to the cold-water facilities in Tasmania. Many students who leave for Tasmania never return to work on Eyre Peninsula.

The establishment of the Lincoln Marine Science Centre in Port Lincoln in 1995—a small research laboratory funded by the active and passionate local community, the federal and state governments and Flinders University, and now operated by the combination of Flinders University, SARDI, SA Museum, seafood industries and regional communities to form the Marine Innovation SA (MISA) campus—was an excellent start to my dream.

The recent \$6.6 million expansion funding for the MISA campus is another step closer to my ultimate goal of offering an internationally recognised marine science university degree at the centre. It makes sense to offer a marine science degree in Port Lincoln—the seafood capital of Australia—as we continue to lead the state in sustainable fishing and aquaculture industries, providing South Australia with millions of export dollars. The Lincoln Marine Science Centre MISA campus is perfectly situated on the shores of the clean Boston Bay waters, in a region which provides the world with tuna, prawns, pilchards, abalone, kingfish, rock lobster, mussels, oysters, and more. Future expansion, planned over the next 30 years, would bring students from all over Australia and international students from around the world to Port Lincoln, allowing them to experience first hand how the marine industries operate and affect and benefit a community. While they are in Port Lincoln they will experience a worldclass education in sustainable temperate water fishing and aquaculture. What better way to learn all

aspects of the industry than to live and study in the town that houses one of the largest fishing fleets in Australia and is home to the first bluefin tuna farming and breeding programs in the country.

The Lincoln Marine Science Centre already hosts visiting scientists and students from interstate and overseas. The new facilities include a 45 seat lecture theatre, a 40 seat teaching laboratory, research laboratories, computer room, aquaria rooms and office space. The centre offers space for an extra 35 permanent and visiting scientists and educational staff, and caters for increased student numbers. With planned future expansion it is anticipated that 250 extra jobs will be generated by 2020. Scientists at the Lincoln Marine Science Centre research lifecycles and growing requirements of farm species, nutrition and feed conversion requirements, breeding and genetics, and genetic influence on product characteristics. Wild fisheries research takes place, assisting industries with new technologies and monitoring systems. Research into aquaculture innovation, product quality and value adding, ecosystems and biosecurity is now underway in the expanded laboratory facilities. Projects are run in partnership with the local fishing and aquaculture industries, providing them with the benefits of research findings.

With the recent expansion, research is said to have the potential to double South Australia's average annual value of seafood production by 2015. Our fishing industries remain the biggest provider of seafood export dollars to this state and require little from the government in return. Therefore, it is only just that the state government continues to fund the planned future expansion of the Lincoln Marine Science Centre. The return on its small investment provides exceptional value for taxpayers.

I am honoured to have been bestowed with a Fellow Membership of Flinders University, recognising my involvement with the Lincoln Marine Science Centre. It is a project that I have been proud to be part of since its inception.

Time expired.

### **PORT LINCOLN MARINE SCIENCE CENTRE 3 August 1999**

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** As illustrated in recent export data showing it was the top performer, aquaculture in South Australia is expanding expedientially with increased exports, increased investment and increased employment. It is a very exciting time to be the member for Flinders, which already produces 65 per cent of the State seafood harvest and which has a coastline bigger than Tasmania's with significant areas suitable for further in-sea and onshore aquaculture. One of our major selling points, especially for exports, is our clean and green image. Our pristine waters and high hygiene requirements ensure a consistently marketable product, but we must never relax our vigilance concerning water pollution.

It is therefore pleasing to bring to the attention of Parliament a program being conducted in Port Lincoln by the Flinders University. Work on the new project is based at the Port Lincoln Marine Science Centre. Flinders University already has a strong

stake in Port Lincoln through the marine science facility at Kirton Point, and the new project is an extension of the marine research already being undertaken there. With a total project value of \$3.8 million, including a \$1.8 million Federal grant, Flinders University joins a team of sponsoring Government agencies, industry, business, local community and indigenous bodies in an integrated project that aims to develop a sustainable water re-use strategy. What is of equal if not greater importance is that it will reduce the input of nutrients and pollutants into the coastal environment.

The project was one of only three judged to have national significance in that round of clean seas grant programs. Scientists from Flinders University will play a major part in the three year clean seas project, which will see cleaner coastal water. It will also see an increased water supply for Port Lincoln, and will create new economic development in the area. The goal of the project is to develop and implement a strategy for taking waste water from the local sewage treatment plant, stormwater drains and nearby fish processing plants and to put it to good use.

The first stage of the project will evaluate the various options for treatment and identify the most appropriate technologies to solve the problems. A program of capital works will then be undertaken to implement the plan. A second major objective will be to establish a re-use scheme for the sewage effluent and to expand a rejuvenated coastal wetlands system. The effluent will be pumped inland for irrigation purposes, or diverted to the wetlands area, which will hold and further filter waste water for re-use. It is planned that some of the reclaimed water will be used to irrigate a new golf course to be built on former landfill as part of the Lincoln Lakes development.

Water from underground basins near Port Lincoln is reticulated to a large proportion of Eyre Peninsula. Everyone is aware that water is precious. Therefore, this project has the potential to help to sustain water supplies on the Eyre Peninsula. The availability of treated effluent and stormwater for irrigation will free up water supplies for other commercial activities while the diversion of waste water and pollutants will improve the coastal marine environment for existing and future aquaculture enterprises.

A comprehensive team put together by Flinders University will tackle the project. Scientists from biological sciences, earth sciences and environmental health are all providing scientific support. Scientists will be involved in all aspects, such as treating the factory effluent and stormwater, coastal water quality, and a water quality monitoring program, testing the effect of irrigation with marginal saline effluent on the integrity of the water table and identifying salt tolerant species for irrigation by the reclaimed water.

Eyre Peninsula has a great potential to increase tourism. This will be picked up by the project in its later stages, when Flinders staff and students may become involved in ecotourism and cultural tourism initiatives eventuating from the wetlands development. The project is an important demonstration of Flinders University's ability to put together a multidisciplinary team to address major environmental problems. It is another example of the close association that the university is developing with Port Lincoln and the support that is coming from all sections of the community.

