



**Port Lincoln International Hockey  
25 July 2007**

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** I have a favourite quote I often think of: dare to dream, dare to do and dare to make your dreams come true. Dreams came true at Port Lincoln last weekend, when the visiting Japanese national women's hockey team played the Australian national women's team, the Hockeyroos, at the Port Lincoln Hockey Association's ground at Ravendale Oval. Australia won the two matches played at Port Lincoln, completing five wins and a draw in the six-match series. The Japanese team, ranked sixth in the world, had recently returned from the Netherlands, where they won a three-match series, 2:1. The Netherlands is ranked first in the world in women's hockey, and Australia is currently ranked third. The team now gets a week off before reassembling for a pre-Olympic tournament in Beijing.

The dream took shape about four years ago, when the Port Lincoln City Council started planning for a community sports complex at Ravendale Oval. The Port Lincoln Hockey Association entered enthusiastically into the concept of a combined sports complex to redevelop their grounds to international playing standard—a momentous decision by a very small group of people. Council contributed \$580 000, and the association \$80 000, to buy artificial turf, which is watered with recycled water. The association added \$50 000 for stage 1 for lighting of the arena, with stage 2 taking a further \$40 000, plus a \$30 000 loan from council to be repaid over two years. The ground is complemented by the \$2.5 million sports centre built by the Port Lincoln City Council to make Ravendale Oval a top-class venue for sport.

The facility was opened by Hockeyroos captain, Nicky Hudson, who led her team to victory in this 2007 series against Japan. The success of the combined event was retold many times over the weekend, with participants and officials making plans to return to Port Lincoln for private visits and the Japanese team declaring that this was the best place they had visited and the best treatment they had received anywhere in the world.

Again, that made me very proud of the people I am privileged to represent in parliament. Usually, teams are looked after while playing, but at other times they are left to their own resources. In Port Lincoln both teams enjoyed the lifestyle Port Lincoln has to offer. The Australians were taken to a tuna farm where they swam with the tuna, while the Japanese team visited an oyster farm at Coffin Bay. On Friday night the local seafood company, Sekol, put on a seafood extravaganza for the visitors, much to their absolute delight.

The President of the Port Lincoln Hockey Association, Wayne Harvey, said that, over the past two years, Rick Kolega of Sekol had been a tremendous supporter of hockey in Port Lincoln. Wayne said that the visitors were blown away by the hospitality they enjoyed in Port Lincoln. The cost to fly teams to Port Lincoln is expensive. An extra plane had to be chartered to accommodate all the luggage associated with the two teams. If the huge cost of travel to and from Port Lincoln can be met or reduced in some way more teams will visit; and soon we will have the international Lincoln Hotel in which to accommodate them.

Already, overtures have been made for a visit from the Australian and Great Britain men's hockey teams in November when the two teams will play a five-test series in Australia. The Chinese men's team is coming to Australia in January-February next year, and inquiries are starting about a match in Port Lincoln, possibly during Tunarama. But we cannot put activities and interests in compartments that have nothing to do with the other parts of our lives. Here again dreams are being worked on to make them come true.

In this instance, the local seafood industry is looking to build links internationally, particularly with emerging markets in China. To be successful overseas local businesses must recognise the way in which those countries operate, hence another link with hockey. The local seafood industry is interested in adopting the Hockeyroos as ambassadors for their products, with those businesses in turn supporting the Hockeyroos. It would be a mutually advantageous arrangement. The ambassadors would open up opportunities across the world in the global market where the introductions can be difficult to develop. We look forward to more international events at the Ravendale Community Sports Ground. The Port Lincoln Hockey Association, the Port Lincoln City Council and the seafood industry are working together to promote and support local activity that makes dreams come true.