



**PORT POWER
25 November 2004**

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): It is with pleasure and great pride that I move:

That this house congratulates Port Power on their magnificent AFL Grand Final win and in particular the contribution that the players from Eyre Peninsula made on this historic occasion.

It is a pleasure to congratulate our South Australian team on winning the 2004 Australian Rules Football premiership, bringing to 100 per cent the state's record of teams that have won this honour.

Coach Mark Williams said it all with his comment on the day that those who had criticised Port Power and his leadership were wrong, a criticism that was made by some very high profile people. My pride stems particularly from the extraordinary contribution made by people in my electorate to this win. It is a source of national comment that six players from such a sparsely populated region had a major part in Port Power's success.

Byron Pickett and brothers Shaun and Peter Burgoyne gained their early training at the Mallee Park Football Club in Port Lincoln. This small club has produced several other AFL players—Graham Johncock, Harry Miller Junior and Daniel Wells. The club was formed in 1981 by the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Organisation when the Tumbly Bay club moved from Port Lincoln to Great Flinders Football Association, leaving a vacancy in the Port Lincoln league.

In its short 24 year history, the club has won 11 A grade premierships, five B grade premierships, five under-17 premierships, two or three under-14 premierships, and this year the under-11s won back to back the Wayne Evans shield, the equivalent of a premiership for this age group which they had also won on previous occasions. In fact, Byron Pickett and Shaun and Peter Burgoyne played together in one of those under-17 premierships.

Club officials said that we should keep our eyes on this year's AFL draft where there is the possibility of two more Mallee Park players, Eddie Betts and Elijah Ware, being picked up. Mallee Park Football Club's management is wholly Aboriginal; however non-Aboriginal players are welcome to join. The club is one of the success stories of our indigenous people, and its positive influence and fame will continue to grow.

Byron Pickett was named best on ground on grand final day, which is a significant honour, and few will forget his nonchalant but fast run down the field, bouncing the ball occasionally, finishing with another goal for Port Power. The speed and agility of Shaun and Peter Burgoyne have brought them to the top of the AFL. But that was not the only contribution that Eyre Peninsula made to Port Power's historic win. Gavin Wanganeen and Darryl Wakelin played short stints for the Boston Football Club in the Port Lincoln Football League. Wanganeen's magic makes him one of the top players in the AFL. Bostons could have used his skills this season, which was not one of its greatest triumphs.

Darryl Wakelin and his twin brother Shane came from Kimba, which is a district more noted for its contribution to politics than to football. Shane, who plays for Collingwood, has twice been in the premiership runner-up team. Kane Ackland is the sixth Eyre Peninsula recruit who contributed to the Power win, although he was not in the team on grand final day, even though he was in the squad. Coffin Bay had a special interest in Port Power, because Kane's

mother lives there.

I mention only some of the players from my electorate covering Eyre Peninsula who have made it in the AFL, because this motion is to congratulate Port Power on its magnificent win. That win has brought joy to many people interstate, including two small friends, Jaden Lewis-Foster and Cohen Ashton, in Cairns in Queensland. The grandparents of both boys live in Port Pirie. Cohen has cystic fibrosis. Jaden's mother picked him up from the hospital to take both boys to the Cairns Esplanade, where the Port Power players autographed their arms and backs. All the players also signed Jaden's cap, which is now a very prized possession. Cohen was returned to the hospital after the drive, but both he and Jaden bathed without soap that night so that the writing would not wash off and they could go to bed autographed.

There are 22 players in a team, although only 18 are on the field at any one time. I am sure that each player in the Port Power team and their families and friends have a story to tell. I congratulate each one. However, I have special pride in congratulating the players from Eyre Peninsula and their supporters, because it is much more difficult to reach the top when one lives as remotely as we do. The inherent costs and difficulties, let alone the homesickness felt by those who have to move away and the sadness of those left behind, are hurdles that prevent some in our region from reaching their potential in their chosen field, as these young men have done. They have been an inspiration to us all. I commend the motion to the house.