



**Put BHP desal at Point Brown
25 August 2009**

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold has suggested a proposed desalination plant to supply the BHP Billiton mine at Olympic Dam could be sited at Point Brown, about half way between Ceduna and Streaky Bay.

“Desalinated water could also go into the Eyre Peninsula system thus reducing the pressure on our underground basins and the River Murray, and reducing the necessity for the Level 3 water restrictions on Eyre Peninsula.

“The pipeline would cross the existing Port Lincoln-Ceduna main from the southern underground basins, with the possibility of shandyng the water. This would reduce the current high mineral content that causes so much damage to pipes, white goods, and other equipment on northern Eyre Peninsula,” she said.

Mrs Penfold said there are many other mining projects and communities in the north that also need water that could be supplied from this appropriately sited environmentally friendly desalination plant.

“The pipeline could run along existing corridors to Glendambo along the Wirrulla to Glendambo road,” she said.

Mrs Penfold said the Streaky Bay District Council has done costings for the upgrade of this road which would help mining companies and tourists coming down to Eyre Peninsula from the north.

“Tourists risk their lives along this track when heat, lack of water and breakdowns are life threatening situations, causing problems for pastoralists, police and SES who have to rescue them,” she said.

“The road needs upgrading to all weather standard and should also be the route for taking the 1000 MW plus of wind energy to the mines through the power ring main I have proposed.” ENDS