



IT'S A FISHY BUSINESS **28 November 2002**

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said the Rann Government's decision to move two yellowtail kingfish farms to Goat Island to protect seal and sea lion breeding colonies at Sceale Bay, would only be relocating the problem.

"The Rann Government has threatened the co-existence of aquaculture and the environment by ignoring the guidelines and due process needed to create a positive outcome for aquaculture and the environment," Ms Penfold said.

The original proposal for a fish farm about 3.5km from the sea lion colony at Sceale Bay has been ruled out by the Government and its intentions are to now relocate the fish farm to Goat Island, 40km off shore from Ceduna without any consultation.

"This decision creates a bigger problem as the closest sea lion colony to Goat Island is only 900m away," Ms Penfold said.

"Just 12km from Goat Island on Lounds Island is a breeding ground for a colony of about 50 sea lions and when last surveyed 26 pups. The off shore islands of the area are home to at least seven individual sea lion colonies and breeding grounds.

"The Government has announced Goat Island as the new site for the aquaculture proposal with total disregard for due process.

"This site will still need to gain Development Assessment Commission (DAC) approval and gain the approval of the independent Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

"The Premier has made a unilateral decision to ensure that there may be no more fish farms of any kind on the coast of the Eyre Peninsula."

Liberal environment spokesman Iain Evans said the Government is prepared to compromise the position of DAC and the EPA by publicly approving the site prior to proper investigation.

"It is essential to develop aquaculture in an ecologically sustainable manner as a legitimate user of the marine environment on the Eyre Peninsula," Mr Evans said.

"We call on the Premier to stop overriding due process and allow the EPA and local stakeholders to work together to continue to build an environmentally sustainable aquaculture industry on the Eyre Peninsula."