

Last say on parks for fishers

By Kimberlee Meier

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LOCAL commercial and recreational fisherman will submit a combined proposal to the state government on where they would like to see sanctuary zones placed in our waters within the week.

The suggestions was taken from concerned sardine, abalone, prawn and scale fishers, along with recreational anglers and

local businesses.

Lower Eyre Peninsula marine park local advisory group member Albert Whittle, who has over 50 years' experience in the commercial fishing industry, helped compile the statement and said no compromises will be made on top of the suggestions.

"If they do not listen to us this time, we will demand that compensation is put on to the table," he said.

Mr Whittle said the only industry split on the submission were rock lobster fishermen, but it will be known within the week if they will sign on their support.

If areas like Cape Wise were closed to commercial rock lobster fishers, the economical impact would be too great, Mr Whittle said.

"We also couldn't give them (DENR) a whole island, because the economical impact would once

again be too great."

"We have been guardians of this coastline for over a hundred years, and it is such a tragedy to see what has happened to areas like Lock's Well."

"After this, we are not going to give up any more, because we have been quite generous with it."

Mr Whittle said an ongoing problem with the entire marine park process has been the fact that a specific threat has still not been

identified.

"They (DENR) sit in the city with a laptop and don't even make the effort to come out here," he said.

"Our very existence relies on us having a good fishery, and we will definitely keep fishing for as long as we can."

The proposal will be submitted once all commercial fisheries sign their support, which Mr Whittle expects will happen this week.

Consider Cape Hardy suggests lobbyist

By Natasha Ewend

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CENTREX Metals should develop its deepwater port at Cape Hardy if Sheep Hill cannot be extended in the future, according to Enterprise Catalyst managing director Liz Penfold.

The former Member for Flinders is a registered lobbyist in the fields of infrastructure including mining, aquaculture, fishing, agriculture, education and research.

She attended an open day on Centrex's proposal to build a port to ship iron ore at Sheep Hill.

She said the state government should actively support a port at Cape Hardy if Sheep Hill could not be extended to become the region's main deepwater port.

"I believe that South Australia needs one deepwater port if it is to realise the mining potential of the state and have the mining boom that has been spoken about for so long.

"We can't afford as a state to keep fiddling with containers, barges or a small inadequate and environmentally risky port at Port Bonython.

"I have been working toward this vision for many years and believe it is the best solution for the state and our region if we are to maintain our population and keep our schools and hospitals and our sporting teams."

Mrs Penfold said the port should be capable of taking the 300,000 to 400,000 tonne ships being built to minimise the cost of freight.

"We must do this to remain viable when the price of iron ore drops and to maximise the return for the Australian people while we



PORT: A graphic of what the Sheep Hill facility is expected to look like.

still have the minerals needed by the rest of the world.

"Our reserves won't last forever and other countries such as South Africa are opening mines and have much lower cost structures than we do.

"I understand that this could be made possible at Sheep Hill."

Other port users would be necessary to ensure viability, and grain and fuel should be relocated to the port.

The cost of a heavy vehicle bypass road for Port Lincoln was prohibitive and the traffic problems through cars and freight would continue to get worse as the city continued to grow.

The land freed up if the port in Port Lincoln closed would become valuable for tourist and other

developments and the jetty would be made available for the fishing industry, with a yacht marina alongside to bring the yachting back near the yacht club and the city centre.

However a fuel depot and other infrastructure would require an exclusion zone that might not be possible at Sheep Hill.

A pellet plant was needed to process the ore into a standardised high quality pellet ready for international furnaces, and a gas line would have to be brought down from Whyalla and the power line upgraded.

"The savings made by having one efficient port used by all the mining companies will enable this to be undertaken where it is not seen as viable at the moment."

Mrs Penfold was satisfied to find provision for a rail loop was being made.

"I believe we need to bring a standard rail line down from Whyalla and to connect to the narrow gauge network on Eyre Peninsula gradually upgrading it to standard gauge to connect the mines as they become productive."

Farmer Adrian McFarlane also attended the open day, seeking information on the project's environmental sustainability.

"I'm curious about the balance of jobs versus the environment," he said.

"I'm not a tree-hugger, but I can't help but think of Kakadu."

Tuna industry support for port

DEVELOPMENT of a port at Sheep Hill will be supported by the local southern bluefin tuna industry.

Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association chief executive officer Brian Jeffriess said it was important the development goes ahead so Eyre Peninsula can prosper.

Mr Jeffriess said the industry has braced itself that it will lose skilled and unskilled workers to the new industries.

"This is particularly the case with fishing, because a lot of the compulsory qualifications for boat opera-

tions and diving are easily transferable to new resource industries.

"This is even happening now with a significant number of Port Lincoln skippers and engineers working in remote locations around Australia in minerals and offshore oil and gas."

It will be hard to replace workers the industry will lose to other careers. "The industry, and the Australian Fisheries Academy, are aware that we must combine with other resource industries to train more people, and we have developed a strategy to do so."

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