

Parliamentary Travel Report

Submitted by

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Member For Flinders

Hong Kong, Taiwan, Myanmar, Darwin

12 August – 2 September 2007

Objectives of Travel

1. Develop knowledge and build friendly relationships with business contacts first hand.
2. Inspect harbours Hong Kong, Kowloon, Taipei and Darwin, to view first hand infrastructure facilities and opportunities that could be used in the development trade and tourism for Eyre Peninsula's harbours particularly those at Port Lincoln, Thevenard and Lucky Bay.
3. Meet with business leaders to discuss possibilities to value add and diversify the economies of Eyre Peninsula.
4. Investigate the transfer of new technologies.
5. Meet to discuss business and skilled migration.
6. Investigate trade, farming, fishing, aquaculture, mining and English skills education possibilities to help fill skill shortages on Eyre Peninsula and fully utilise our education facilities, particularly TAFE, Minnipa Research Centre and the Lincoln Marine Science Centre.
7. Attend the Cruise Down Under conference in Darwin to facilitate cruising to Eyre Peninsula to help drought proof our economy.

Itinerary :

August 12

Travel - Port Lincoln Adelaide Singapore Hong Kong Kowloon

August 13

Walked the Kowloon wharf precinct and travelled on the harbour ferry to view usage of the ferry and harbour precinct and usages for trade and tourism purposes. Sheer numbers/volumes of people can not compare to ferries or cruise ships on Eyre Peninsula but was of particular interest to view infrastructure, facilities, processes, shops, points of interest etc for visitors and gauge potential for local industries. Pictured here is the ferry terminal being dwarfed by the city high rise.



Locally we have the potential to display and expand local produce – capitalise on ‘local’ e.g. Cornish pasties / heritage on Yorke Peninsula including Wallaroo’s maritime and mining history. Cowell’s history and aquaculture will be extremely valuable for tourism as the ferry service grows linking the peninsulas. Oysters – prepared ready to eat or packaged for people to take with them from Cowell or Port Lincoln. Possibilities of local tours– EP interest – Mount Millar wind farm/oyster industry/jade industry/museums – history etc.

August 14

Again walked the wharf precinct to view cruise liner berths and booking areas. Also travelled to Macau by ferry and viewed the ferry and harbour precincts and their usages for trade and tourism purposes. There are investigations being undertaken into the possibility of various sized cruise ships visiting Ceduna (Thevenard) and Port Lincoln in the near future. This trip also included attending the Cruise Down Under Conference adding additional interest to this aspect.



The First Ferry Turbojet services provide a very smooth ride. Helicopter travel was also available from the same places providing another option for travellers and one we should look at for Port Lincoln particularly if the cruise liners eventuate.

On the wharf I took particular note of cranes mounted on barges shifting 20 foot containers on and off coastal shipping, some taking 3 or 4 at once. This would be a possibility for the Port Lincoln and Thevenard Ports particularly for those products going to China where the containers themselves are in high demand. Pictured are the activities with cranes working on the busy wharves.



Walking around Hong Kong it was interesting to see the government taking a role in the restoration and maintenance of historic sites of significance. Our historic court house in Port Lincoln is currently under threat of sale and loss to the community. There were beautiful walkways, places to sit near water with fish and turtles

I took particular note of attractive canopy provided for outdoor shade that would also suit our environment.

August 15

Travelled Hong Kong to Taipei and met with Mr. Henry Cheng, my host while in Taipei. We met for a business dinner to discuss the program for the next few days. On the agenda for discussion and investigation were opportunities for South Australia and Eyre Peninsula, particular regarding technology transfer, water, power, SA films, mining, aquaculture, fishing, farming and value adding. At the hotel I was very interested to note the way that marble and lighting was utilised in the hotel and believe there is still markets and opportunities for marble and granite from Eyre Peninsula.



Also under discussion was nuclear power in Taiwan. There are already 3 power stations with another currently being built. Waste storage is a problem and we discussed the possibility of Australia taking it for reprocessing and storage for considerable economic benefit. Things to think about – control supply/high margin in Australia – sell uranium and value add, take back waste (uses), need qualified inspectors to check, possibly train in Australia.

Technology transfer – water machine, its potential and possibilities. Henry currently has one machine utilising one computer however the operations could become much cheaper utilising one computer for numerous larger machines

August 16

Walked around Taipei visiting shopping centres to view products and packaging in particular wine, beef, lamb, seafood, vegetables, fruit, juices, milk and cheese also for Australian content and competitiveness.

Of note were the numbers of environmentally friendly, low fuel consumption motor bikes and scooters. Also a Mercedes Benz, 2 seater smart car. These types of travel

could be encouraged a lot more in Australian cities. Two wheelers are being given priority at the front of stop lights with specially demarcated areas for them.

The city is very green, lots of parks with shady trees creating a very attractive environment.

Henry took us to visit the Presidential Building where we went on official guided tour. The building was built in 1912 during Japanese occupation around a central court yard.



We also visited the war memorial that I found to be a very emotional experience and were there while the official changing of the guard took place. Also took the opportunity of visiting the National Palace Museum.



We saw many beautiful and ancient treasures, particularly jade and precious stones, metals, gold, silver and crystal brought across from mainland China before separation.



We took the opportunity to have our photo taken, as did the many visitors, in an imperial set of chairs near the entrance. I believe we should provide more photo opportunities like this for visitors to our region, for example we could have a horse and carriage to sit in for photographs near the civic centre as an advertisement to encourage people to visit the Koppio Museum, or a nautical type of seat at the Axel Stenross Museum etc.

August 17

We visited a fishing harbour that has been redeveloped for tourism, with the help of the government after the reduction in fishing. Shops and ferries have provided alternative jobs and income. Fishing harbour buildings with small shops, below and housing above with ferries around the harbour and the Metropolitan Rail Transport stop to ensure people can shop there and then return to the city quickly.

A similar effort is needed by the government in our small towns with the downturn in farming to provide alternative industries and employment so that people can stay within their own communities with family support ensuring that health and education services can be maintained.

August 18

A typhoon in Taiwan meant that the proposed visit to farming areas on the other side of the island had to be cancelled. Instead we visited the World Trade Fair Centre and shopping centres. We took the opportunity of visiting a typical supermarket and check out displays of meat, seafood, juice, cheeses etc noting countries of origin and packaging. Of significant interest was the very strong emphasis and promotion of anything “organic”. There was pleasingly a very strong presence of Australian owned companies and products. We visited three different shopping centres, comparing products and packaging. One of the supermarkets was managed by an Australian.



We visited the highest tower in the world, 101 floors high. The building was originally planned to be 131 floors high, but the plans were disallowed due to the aircraft! Dubai will soon have the tallest building in the world.

We were fortunate to be taken to dinner at the Panorama Restaurant, one of two restaurants near the top. There has been remarkable attention to detail with decorations (huge gold and black boat in the middle of the room) crockery and cutlery. Interestingly there were bench seats as pictured here so there was no



noise of chairs moving. Waiting staff have been taught by French trainers and were extremely skilled. They were very welcoming while discrete and treated every customer with the greatest respect. We could learn from their presentation and service, possibly by bringing into Australia skilled migrants and students for education and encouraging them to stay.



Attention to detail in food presentation was particularly noticeable with seafood a speciality.

August 19

Visited the world trade fair, shopping centres and a huge open air jade market under a road bridge. Eyre Peninsula has the largest potential jade mine in Australia at Cowell.



There was a Japanese Restaurant in a shopping centre, complete with Japanese garden.

In the supermarkets the food is prepared in full view of the customers and is very labour intensive.

The rail system is excellent. There are delineated safe areas on the platforms that are covered at night by camera surveillance and guards come if required. A similar system could be adapted for our train stations.



for hot springs but now tourism as well as seafood. Here there were wild catch abalone and prawns as well as aquaculture of these species and of eels. The strategy for aquaculture is to break up farms into smaller parts separated from each other to reduce risk from typhoons and from disease.

Also growing were sunflowers, double ones are common and are used as decoration as well as for seeds.



To get to the aquaculture precinct we drove through the world's longest tunnel. It took 10 years to construct and was only recently opened. There are 12 sections. Toll roads are used in Taiwan for government income.

August 21

Discussions and visits today focussed on immigration, iron ore, steel, uranium and storage of nuclear waste. We travelled by High Speed Rail to the China Ship Building Corporation (CSBC) and China Steel Corp (CSC). We toured CSBC and CSC who are already importing significant quantities of iron ore from Whyalla. Watched excellent video's of the impressive work being undertaken by these companies.



CSBC who are privatising next year, have three eight hour shifts employing some 8000 people with enough orders to 2012. Currently 4th in the world. They specialise in container ships but also build frigates.

The companies are massive and staff are housed in dormitories and homes further away for families. The company town has its own heated swimming pool, hospital, guest houses, with English education on site.

The area has beautiful Bonsai, green marble floors and pottery. All trees are numbered and coded to ensure that they are looked after properly.



Taiwan is the stepping stone between Australia and China which I found to be much easier and more comfortable to deal with as a smaller and democratic country than the huge diversity of China and its provinces.

Discussions included Eyre Peninsula's potential with iron ore, mineral sands and uranium.

The fast train took 2 ½ hours to return to Taipei which allowed for future discussions regarding ports, mining, immigration and uranium/thorium and potential investment opportunities within the region.



August 22 Taipei, Singapore Yangon (Myanmar – formerly Burma)

On arrival in Yangon were met by possible relatives Clinton and Georgiana Penfold who took us to Traders Hotel. Currency was a problem as traveller's cheques were not accepted and we did not have any US dollars with us (a trap for anyone travelling to this country). Fortunately Clinton was able to assist us.

A\$100 – 100,000 Katz, A\$1 – 1000 Chats. Dinner in the Traders Hotel, an international hotel for 4 people cost US\$35.

August 23-25

Pictured here with my hosts Georgiana and daughter Maxine (they both have Burmese names too). My purpose of visiting



Myanmar was to look at possible adoption, migration, trade, and tourism opportunities. During my time there I travelled out of the city into the country, visited an orphanage, supermarkets and local markets.

I learnt so much about the way life for people living in Myanmar and what has happened since the change in government from British reign.

The difference between Taiwan and Myanmar in terms of wealth and government was remarkable. Pictured below are prawns in the local market – not quite the same packaging and presentation as that in Taiwan.



Sadly much has been heard of Myanmar in the days following our visit when pro-democracy monks led a protest in the streets when it is reported that many hundreds of people were killed.



Clinton gave up 2 days holidays to look after us. His own car is 20 years old and valued at about A\$20,000 as no vehicles have been allowed to be imported for 20 years. He built his house 3 years ago for A\$20,000 now valued at between A\$45,000-\$60,000.

People can not borrow money to build. Typical wages for example a policeman will earn A\$1 per day or less if provided with food and lodging.

We visited a Catholic orphanage in the country where I took books, pens, pencils, sharpeners and some lollies. 8 Catholic nuns care for 141 children aged between 6-18 years, with the assistance of St. Vincent de Paul support. The orphanages are very austere, no colour. Schools are nationalised and there are no adoptions allowed in the country. The government looks after children until the age of 16.

We travelled back to the city over the longest bridge (built by China) 50c toll fee with fees going into each township. There are very few accidents, with speed limits in the city of 30 miles/hr. Roads have a lawn and tree divider in the centre that Clinton advised are designed to stop aeroplanes landing in case of invasion. There are lots of

people in truck, cars, vans and bikes however the government has banned scooters and 3 wheeler bikes in the city.

We went to dinner in a restaurant on a 30 year old large boat function room on a lake and watched dancing backed by a drummer and pre recorded singing. There was a bus load of tourists also visiting, although tourists were few.



A traditional breakfast in Rangoon has noodle soup, egg, fish, chilli and mushrooms. We visited the markets with our hosts where there were lots of jade, gold, wood carving, clothing, pictures and puppets for sale.

We also visited the main pagoda, the biggest in Myanmar. There are shrines for people to pray at, depending on their date of birth. The top is studded with real diamonds, rubies and is solid gold which seems very strange in such an obviously poor country. I was privileged to be able to dine at home with Clinton, Georgiana and Maxine. Workers have to retire at 60 years and there is no pension. A bed ridden elderly family member is also cared for at home.

August 26 Rangoon / Singapore / Darwin

August 29-31st 2007 Cruise Down Under AGM and conference “*Don’t Miss the Ship*”

The ports of Ceduna and Port Lincoln are well positioned for inclusion on the world wide market for stop overs of cruise ships in the future. For this reason I have become a member of Cruise Down Under Inc to enable me to better understand how to lobby for Eyre Peninsula’s ports to be used as stopover points for lucrative tourist

dollars. We have already had some excellent exposure at the last conference in Miami (America) and in several newsletters and magazines.

The conference was a fantastic forum to network with companies and businesses associated with the cruise ship tourism markets and I have been very encouraged by the activity and contacts since.

Prior to attending the conference I liaised with Tourism Eyre Peninsula and the Eyre Regional Development Board. I acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of TEP's Marketing Manager Shaun deBruyn and tourism officer Kate Jervis for providing excellent Eyre Peninsula promotional material. I was able to extensively distribute the Eyre Peninsula Visitor Guide to conference delegates that were very well received.

The conference was excellent with relevant keynote speakers. Topics covered at the conference include the economic impact of cruise ship tourism, developing new destinations and the impact on ports when cruise ships stop over.

The networking, presentations and workshop forums with businesses and service providers was invaluable and there are several opportunities to be followed up upon now. Quote from one cruise ship operator who emailed after the conference, *"I've had a good look at your brochure and I think you are on to something. I was pleasantly surprised at the diversity of activities you have on offer there – much more than my limited knowledge of SA (from sailing around the commercial ports in cargo ships) led me to believe..."*

Herewith media release dated 5th September.

Cruise ships on the horizon

"Cruise ships are sailing everywhere but here so I am working to turn them in our direction," Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said after returning from a Cruise Down Under conference in Darwin on Sunday.

"The cruise industry is booming, with the industrial city of Burnie in Tasmania expecting more than 20 cruise liners in the 2008/09 season," she said.

Mrs Penfold said the Labor state Minister for Tourism Jane Lomax-Smith has totally ignored this exciting industry that sees South Australia at the very bottom of cruise ship destinations with only \$1.2 million coming from the industry last year while New South Wales received almost \$95 million.

"I urge the government to provide more funding for the Department of Tourism to help launch this industry in South Australia.

"I believe Eyre Peninsula has a fantastic opportunity to attract ships on their voyages between Western Australia and the Eastern States.

“They could anchor off the Head of the Bight and watch the whales, visit the Nuyts Archipeligo to see where the idea for the little people of Gullivers Travels fame originated, swim with seals and sea lions at Bairds Bay, or visit Streaky Bay before calling in at Port Lincoln and swim with tuna there,” she said.

Shadow Minister for Tourism Michael Pengilly said the opportunity to attract more cruise ships and value-add to the travellers’ encounters is a win-win.

“Experiences that people can have nowhere else in the world will give more exposure for South Australian tourism highlights, leading to even more tourists and dollars coming into the state and regions,” he said. ENDS

I believe there are excellent prospects for Eyre Peninsula cruise ship tourism in the future.

Outcomes of travel / achievements Objectives 1 – 7

1. I have assisted Mr. Henry Cheng to become an Australian Citizen and attended his Citizenship ceremony on 21st October 2007. I am hopeful that he is the first of many new business migrants that I will be welcoming to South Australia.
2. I am investigating the possibility of containerisation of our products possibly using barges from Eyre Peninsulas ports.
3. I have tried lobbying for a brewery in our region previously and while I think this is still an option, barley juice is something that might more easily be achieved. Packaging of our products to enable better prices to be obtained to help offset our high exchange rate is being investigated.
4. Two new water technologies have been air freighted to Adelaide since my visit to Taiwan that are currently being trialled. These may help with the provision of more and better water for my region and others across the state.
5. The potential to bring Taiwanese business people to South Australia offers a huge opportunity to South Australia and progress is being made to achieve this objective.
6. I have made contacts in both Taiwan and Burma that I am hopeful will develop into education of potential migrants and jobs being filled in our regions from their ranks.
7. Cruise ships are now closer to operating in the waters adjacent to Eyre Peninsula with discussions taking place (see press clippings November 2007)