



Our ref: eA199014
Obj ID: A5827192
Receipt No: 17496658

The Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms Centofanti

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* received by the Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Office of the Minister for Forest Industries on 10 March 2023 requesting access to the following:

“A copy of all documents (including but not limited to hard copy or electronic briefings, minutes, reports, emails, letters (including draft versions), meeting agendas, diary entries, event attendance records and any other correspondence) regarding a desalination plant on the Eyre Peninsula, between 1 January 2023 and 10 March 2023 (inclusive)”

On 16 March 2023, contact was made with your office and it was confirmed that you are seeking documents regarding a desalination plant at Port Lincoln.

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located seventeen documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination 1

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Minute from Chief Executive, Department of Primary Industries and Regions to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 13/01/2023 re meeting with Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association	4

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



2	Attachment to Document 1 – Minute from Chief Executive, Department of Primary Industries and Regional to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 2/08/2022 re meeting request – Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee	4
3	Email from City of Port Lincoln to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 23/02/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project	1
3a	Attachment to Document 3 – Letter from City of Port Lincoln to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 23/02/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project	2
4	Email from Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula Inc to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 28/02/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project	1
4a	Attachment to Document 4 – Letter from Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula Inc to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 27/02/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project	2
5a	Attachment to Document 5 – Letter from Yumbah Aquaculture Limited to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 28/02/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant	2
6	Email from Clean Seas Seafood Limited to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 01/03/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project	1
6a	Attachment to Document 6 – Letter from Clean Seas Seafood Limited to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 01/03/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project – Site Selection Committee	1
7	Email from Eyre Peninsula Seafoods to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 01/03/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project	1
7a	Attachment to Document 7 – Letter from Eyre Peninsula Seafoods to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 01/03/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant – Site Selection Committee	2
8	Email from Port Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and Tourism to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 02/03/2023 re Desalination Plant Site Selection Southern Eyre Peninsula	1
8a	Attachment to Document 8 – Letter from Port Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and Tourism to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 01/03/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project	1
9	Email from District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 02/03/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project	1

9a	Attachment to Document 9 – Letter from District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 02/03/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project	2
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The information removed from Document 1 is outside of the scope of your request.

Determination 2

I have determined that access to the following document is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
5	Email from Yumbah Aquaculture Limited to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 28/02/2023 re Eyre Peninsula Desalination Project	1

The information removed from the above document is pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).”

The information removed consists of a mobile telephone number of an individual. Pursuant to Section 27 of the Freedom of Information Act, consultation was undertaken with the individual concerned and consent was not provided to release this information.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individual concerned.

Determination 3

I have determined that access to the following document is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
10	Parliamentary Briefing Note dated 01/02/2023	9

Access to the above document is refused pursuant to Clause 17(c) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“17 – Documents subject to contempt etc

*A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the public disclosure of which would, but for any immunity of the Crown –
(c) infringe the privilege of Parliament.”*

The document consists of a briefing note which was specifically prepared for the purpose of use in proceedings in Parliament. Disclosure of this information would infringe the privilege of Parliament.

If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman SA. Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). If you wish to seek a review, you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving this internal review determination.

For more information about seeking a review or appeal, please contact the Ombudsman SA on telephone (08) 8226 8699 or SACAT on 1800 723 767.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Rachael Colegate on 8226 2931 or email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

8 / 5 / 2023



Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

MINISTER'S
OFFICE

13 JAN 2023

RECEIVED

Ref: eA198693

For	Noting
Critical Date	18 January 2023 (date of meeting)
Subject	Meeting with Mr Brian Jeffriess, CEO Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association (ASBTIA)

Synopsis

You are meeting with Mr Brian Jeffriess, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association (ASBTIA) on 18 January 2023. Your office has requested a brief on matters that may be discussed.

Recommendations

That you:

- Note the brief

NOTED

mtg held 18.1.2023
-RC-

Hon Clare Scriven MLC

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**

Minister for Forest Industries

/ / 2023

Ministerial Comments -

Background

- Out of scope

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-

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Discussion

Out of scope

- Out of scope

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Out of scope

Other Potential Topics include:

Out of scope

• Out of scope

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Desalination Plant proposal – Port Lincoln

- Security of regional water supplies is a key priority for SA Water and existing water supplies for regional communities on Eyre Peninsula need to be supplemented to ensure future proofing. To achieve this, SA Water proposed to build a desalination plant in Boston Bay, Port Lincoln. Due to the reduced flushing of the inshore regions of Boston, Proper and Louth Bay's, and its proximity to co-located fisheries and aquaculture industries and the Port Lincoln community, there is uncertainty in the regions capacity to adequately disperse brine outfall from a desalination plant.
- Mr Jeffries is a member of the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee which has identified and narrowed down site location to three options: Sleaford West; Sleaford North; or Point Boston. You received a brief on this matter (**Attachment C**).

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation and engagement

- Nil

Management of key risks

- Nil

Legislative and/or financial implications

- Out of scope

Attachments

- A. Out of scope [Redacted]
- B. Out of scope [Redacted]
- C. Minute - TRELOAR, Peter Eyre Peninsula Desalination Site Selection Committee July 2022 - Signed by Minister



for
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

13/1/2023

CONTACT	Benn Gramola
POSITION	A/Executive Director
DIVISION	Fisheries and Aquaculture
MOBILE and LANDLINE	0427 603 167
Cleared by	Dr Shane Roberts, General Manager, Aquaculture



Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Ref: eA197625



For	Noting
Critical Date	Nil
Subject	Meeting request from Peter Treloar, Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee

Synopsis

Mr Peter Treloar, Chair, Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee, has requested a meeting with you to discuss a viable site option for the proposed desalination plan. Your office has requested a briefing to inform scheduling of a potential meeting.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note the brief about the proposed desalination plant.

NOTED

Hon Clare Scriyen MLC

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**

Minister for Forest Industries

24 / 8 / 2022

Ministerial Comments -

Background

- Mr Peter Treloar, Independent Chair, Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee (Committee), has written to request you meet with him and Mr Brad Flaherty, Mayor of the Port Lincoln City Council, and Chair of the (Committee's) Funding Sub-Committee.
- The role of the Committee is to find a viable alternative site to that proposed in late 2021 by SA Water. The Committee is intending to finalise its recommendations to SA Water by early August 2022.
- It appears Mr Treloar is seeing to meet with you in your role as Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development prior to finalising its recommendation.
- This briefing has been prepared to assist with informing whether a meeting should be scheduled.

Discussion

- It was identified in 2009 that the Eyre Peninsula (EP) was in need of a secure, alternative water sources from existing provisions, particularly from the Uley Basin, and the River Murray. It has been forecast that the Uley Basin, which supplies approximately 75% of water to the lower Eyre Peninsula would be depleted by 2024.
- In 2018 SA Water announced a preferred site at Sleaford, to build a desalination plant to supply water to Port Lincoln and lower Eyre Peninsula, based on an urgent need to address water security for the region. Project costs for a new desalination plant at Sleaford were identified to be around \$90 million.
- Following additional costings, SA Water identified that the previously selected site was cost prohibitive and an alternative preferred site was announced in 2021 at the Slipway, Port Lincoln (also referred to as Billy Light's Point).
- Community concerns were raised, including a number of campaigns and protests during October and November 2021. The aquaculture and fishing industries were concerned about the environmental impacts on production, in particular given the lack of tidal flushing in the area.
- In November 2021 the State Government announced that the project would be put on hold for twelve months to allow time for more investigation and consultation with local community and businesses. SA Water continues to undertake work, including studies and modelling on water flows in the marine environment, to inform the decision making process.
- SA Water engaged SARDI to undertake a 15 month project to investigate modelling of brine dispersion at proposed sites. PIRSA through SARDI has provided preliminary modelling and monitoring for Billy Light's Point, Point Boston and Cape Dingleton to the Site Selection Committee.
- A new proposal was presented, increasing the costs of the project to \$150 million, although it has been speculated that this funding will not fully deliver the project given price rises, as well as geographically challenging issues, and logistics.
- Since this time, the community has established the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee, chaired independently by Peter Treloar (former Member for Flinders), supported by SA Water, and with representation from key stakeholders from the Lower Eyre Peninsula. A copy of the Terms of Reference for this Committee is provided as Attachment A.

- The Committee has identified and narrowed down site location to three options: Sleaford West; Sleaford North; or Point Boston.
- There is concern in the community that final site location will be chosen with disregard of community input and alternative options, based on costs and available funding sources.
- As noted in briefing eA197603, the Slipway forms part of a larger strategic objective, which needs to be considered by the State Government prior to any final decisions being made as the preferred desalination plant location.

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation, and engagement

- There is significant community concern regarding impacts, particularly within the seafood industry.

Management of key risks


- PIRSA is not aware of a Regional Impact Assessment Statement for the desalination plant project.

Legislative and/or financial implications

- Funding of \$150 million has been committed by the Government of South Australia.

Attachments

- A. EP Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee Terms of Reference.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

2/8/2022

CONTACT	Peta Crewe
POSITION	General Manager, Regions
DIVISION	Industry and Regional Development
MOBILE and LANDLINE	0427 012 510
Cleared by	Executive Director, Industry & Regional Development

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: Amanda Pearce <Amanda.Pearce@plcc.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2023 3:00 PM
To: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Cc: Diana Mislov; Matthew Morgan
Subject: Correspondence - City of Port Lincoln - EP Desalination Plant Project
Attachments: 4.85.1.32 O236706 EP Desalination Plant Project_SCRIVEN 20230223.pdf

Categories: Corro - General

You don't often get email from amanda.pearce@plcc.sa.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please find attached correspondence from Mayor Diana Mislov and CEO Matthew Morgan in relation to the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project, for the urgent consideration of Minister Scriven.

Kind regards

Amanda Pearce

Executive Assistant – CEO & Mayor



City of Port Lincoln

Level One, Civic Centre | 60 Tasman Terrace

PO Box 1787 | Port Lincoln SA 5606

T 08 8621 2325 | F 08 8621 2399

www.portlincoln.sa.gov.au | amanda.pearce@plcc.sa.gov.au



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We work on Barngarla Country

The City of Port Lincoln acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging and are committed to working together on our reconciliation journey.



City of Port Lincoln

Seafood Capital of Australia

Our Ref: 4.85.1.32 0236706

23 February 2023

Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister Scriven

RE: EYRE PENINSULA DESALINATION PLANT PROJECT

We are writing in relation to the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant project, to provide our support for the recommendations provided by the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Working Group.

The City of Port Lincoln had previously considered the matter in September 2021 and at its most recent meeting held on 20 February 2023 Council resolved as follows:

- *That Council supports the recommendations of the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Working Group including the identification of Sleaford West as the preferred location for a desalination plant; and*
- *That Council does not support a location inside the Proper and Boston Bay systems given the risk to existing aquaculture and fishing operations within the bays.*

As a Council and community, we welcomed the establishment of the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Working Group (otherwise referred to as the *Site Selection Committee* or *SSC*) by the State Government, and were honoured to be a part of this process which has seen community and business leaders from across the Southern Eyre Peninsula contribute a combined 3,000 hours of time to this thorough and diligent process, and to deliver recommendations to SA Water and the State Government as tasked by the Minister for Environment and Water.

We understand that Peter Treloar, the independent chairperson of the SSC wrote to the Deputy Premier / Minister for Environment and Water with the recommendations of the committee on 17 August 2022, and in a subsequent communication dated 23 December 2022.

We work on Barnjarla Country. The City of Port Lincoln acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging and are committed to working together on our reconciliation journey.

Level One, Civic Centre, 60 Tasman Terrace, Port Lincoln SA 5606

T: 08 8621 2300 | F: 08 8621 2399 | E: plcc@plcc.sa.gov.au | www.portlincoln.sa.gov.au



City of Port Lincoln

Seafood Capital of Australia

We also understand that the current process for decision making is that the SA Water Board will make a determination on their preferred location for the desalination plant, and that this recommendation will then flow through to state cabinet for a final decision.

We urge the State Government to endorse and support the recommendation provided by the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Working Group. The recommendation of the working group provides the Government with a solution which has the full support of community leaders, the seafood and aquaculture industries and the broader local community.

As a Council, we would welcome discussion about this important project, and should there be barriers that would prohibit the Sleaford West location being chosen, we stand ready to work alongside the Government and SA Water to overcome those barriers. This could include for example working with SA Water, Infrastructure SA and other government agencies to secure additional funding if that is required to deliver a desalination plant in the most suitable location.

It is our belief, that the Billy Lights Point location (referred to as the 'base case' during this process) fails to deliver SA Water and the State Government with a solution that holds social licence. It also unnecessarily puts fishing and aquaculture industries (which our local economy is so heavily reliant upon) at risk.

We are affectionately known as the 'Seafood Capital of Australia' and home to the largest fishing fleet in the Southern Hemisphere. This is a jewel in the crown of the State Government and we must do what we can to protect that natural environment and the industries that rely on the Proper and Boston Bay systems.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly to further discuss this matter.

Yours sincerely

Diana Mislov
MAYOR

Matthew Morgan
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We work on Barngarla Country. The City of Port Lincoln acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging and are committed to working together on our reconciliation journey.

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: Wendy Ettridge <wendy.ettridge@rdaep.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 10:24 AM
To: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Subject: Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project
Attachments: Minister Scriven - Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project.pdf

Categories: Corro - General

You don't often get email from wendy.ettridge@rdaep.org.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please find attached correspondence in regard to SA Water's desalination plant project for Eyre Peninsula.

Kind regards

Wendy Ettridge

Executive Assistant

Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula Inc. (RDAEP)

5 Adelaide Place

PORT LINCOLN SA 5606

Ph: 08 8682 6588

Email: wendy.ettridge@rdaep.org.au

Web: rdaep.org.au



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An Australian Government Initiative



www.rdaep.org.au

5 Adelaide Place

Port Lincoln SA 5606

Ph +61 8 8682 6588

Email: ryan.viney@rdaep.org.au

27 February 2023

Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

BY EMAIL: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister

EYRE PENINSULA DESALINATION PLANT PROJECT

I write to you in relation to the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant project, to provide support from Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP) for the recommendation provided by the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee.

RDAEP had previously considered the matter and resolved the following:

Resolution 38/21 October 2021

That the Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula Board Inc. strongly support the urgent need for a desalination plant on the Eyre Peninsula, but absolutely opposes the proposed location of Billy Lights Point or any other location in the Port Lincoln Bay areas and that SA Water adopt international best practice in site selection and the whole project development.

Resolution 51/22 19 August 2022

That following the update by Chair Bryan Trigg on the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant - Site Selection Committee, the Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula Board support the site of Sleaford West variation as the preferred site.

At its most recent meeting on 24 February 2023, RDAEP also resolved the following:

Resolution 4/23

That the Chair of Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula write to the Chair of Regional Development South Australia, Rob Kerin seeking support to lobby the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet for the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee's decision for the desalination plant to be located at Sleaford West and express the significance to the State.

RDAEP welcomed the establishment of the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee (SSC) by the State Government, and were honoured to be a part of this process which has seen community and business leaders from across the southern Eyre Peninsula contribute a combined 3,000 hours of time to this thorough and diligent process, and to deliver recommendations to SA Water and the State Government as tasked by the Minister for Environment and Water.

I understand that Peter Treloar, the independent Chairperson of the SSC wrote to the Deputy Premier / Minister for Environment and Water with the recommendation of the Committee on 17 August 2022, and in a subsequent communication dated 23 December 2022.

I also understand that the current process for decision making is that the SA Water Board will make a determination on their preferred location for the desalination plant, and that this recommendation will then flow through to state cabinet for a final decision.

I urge the State Government to endorse and support the recommendation provided by the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee. The recommendation of the Committee provides the Government with a solution which has the full support of community leaders, the seafood and aquaculture industries and the broader local community.

As a Board, we would welcome discussion about this important project, and should there be barriers that would prohibit the Sleaford West location being chosen, we stand ready to work alongside the Government and SA Water to overcome those barriers. This could include for example, working with SA Water, Infrastructure SA and other government agencies to secure additional funding if that is required to deliver a desalination plant in the most suitable location.

It is the belief of the RDAEP Board, that the Billy Lights Point location (referred to as the 'base case' during this process) unnecessarily puts fishing and aquaculture industries (which the Port Lincoln economy is so heavily reliant upon) at risk.

Port Lincoln is affectionately known as the 'Seafood Capital of Australia' and home to the largest fishing fleet in the Southern Hemisphere. This is a jewel in the crown of the State Government and we must do what we can to protect that natural environment and the industries that rely on the Proper and Boston Bay systems.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly to further discuss this matter.

Yours sincerely



Bryan Trigg
Chairperson
Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula

bn.trigg@bigpond.com
0488 059 501



An Initiative of
**Government of
South Australia**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS: District Council of Ceduna • District Council of Cleve • District Council of Elliston • District Council of Franklin Harbour • District Council of Kimba • Lower Eyre Council • City of Port Lincoln • District Council of Streaky Bay • District Council of Tumby Bay • Wudinna District Council

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: David Wood <david.wood@yumbah.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 3:51 PM
To: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Subject: Eyre Peninsula Desalination Project
Attachments: Eyre Peninsula Desalination project concern 28 Feb 2023.pdf

Categories: Corro - General

You don't often get email from david.wood@yumbah.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Minister Clare Scriven
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Dear Minister Scriven

I share with you the attached correspondence sent to the Chair and Chief Executive of SA Water following a 17 February meeting regarding their likely recommended location for the Port Lincoln desalination plant.

We appreciate this is not a formal site recommendation, but note Billy Lights Point it is the least preferred by Yumbah Aquaculture, others with significant investment in South Australia's aquaculture and fisheries industries, and the City of Port Lincoln.

Should you wish to discuss our position and preferred resolution of this challenging planning process, please don't hesitate to call.

Regards

David Wood
Chief Executive Officer
Yumbah Aquaculture Limited

M: Clause 6(1)
E: david.wood@yumbah.com
Level 1, 69 Fullarton Road
Kent Town, SA 5067



28 February 2023

Mr David Ryan - CEO
 Mr Allan Holmes – Chair
 SA Water
 250 Victoria Square
 Adelaide

Via email

Dear David and Allan

Re: Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant

Thank you for the meeting Thursday 23 February 2023 to discuss the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project.

I appreciate you taking the time to explain the likely recommendation of Billy Lights Point and not the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Working Group's much preferred Sleaford West site.

You express confidence in SARDI's scientific reports and your intent to monitor and adapt the Project as information comes to light. I must reiterate that Yumbah does not share your confidence in this decision or methodology.

- We note the modelling is based on averages over time. Yumbah believes this does not sufficiently consider the spikes and temporal impacts on our operations where we pump water continuously
- There is insufficient information to assess the probability and duration of a plume encroaching our intake systems at Point Boston under a range of scenarios, for instance a dodge tide with sustained easterly winds
- We share concerns over the veracity of SARDI's work documented in reports prepared for Eyre Peninsula Seafoods Pty Ltd by Dr Paul McShane and Associate Professor Jochen Kaempf of Flinders University
- Aquaculture practises adaptive management as new scientific information comes to light, but we also adopt a precautionary approach to minimise impacts. It is possible to adapt the design and operations of the desalination plant as new information comes to light, but this approach is contrary to our application of the Precautionary Principle that ensures we account for uncertain but potentially serious and/or irreversible threats of harm
- Port Lincoln is unique as Australia's premium multi-species aquaculture and fisheries hub reliant on a shared responsibility to maintain water quality for all. A desalination plant in this mix, at the very heart of Port Lincoln, presents enormous risk to all who share the value its waters bring

Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula notes the region produces *all* of South Australia's Southern Bluefin Tuna, *all* of its marine finfish, *all* of its mussels, 97% of its oysters and more than 60 per cent of its abalone.

More than 80 per cent of South Australia's seafood product is exported from the region; in 2020/21 this accounted for 12 per cent of the Peninsula's exports, valued at \$360.9m.

Head Office
 2/9 Rosberg Road
 Wingfield, SA 5013
 info@yumbah.com

Yumbah committed to Port Lincoln because of this dynamic environment of innovation, supported by the surety of water quality.

Our Point Boston oyster hatchery and nursery supports about three quarters of Coffin Bay oyster production. Our adjacent abalone farms provide nearly 20 per cent of Australia's farmed abalone output.

Nobody with an interest in the future of the region could argue this desalination plant is not needed. However, it's difficult to rationalise the comparative economic cost of the more isolated Sleaford West site against the high-impact, high-risk of Billy Light's Point in the heart of Port Lincoln.

On this issue we stand firmly with the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Working Group, our wider industry, the City of Port Lincoln and community voices in pressing for Sleaford West.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Wood'.

David Wood
Chief Executive Officer
Yumbah Aquaculture Ltd.

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: Rob Gratton <rob.gratton@cleanseas.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2023 1:31 PM
To: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Subject: Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project
Attachments: CSS Desal Plant Letter to Minister Scriven.pdf

Categories: Corro - General

Dear Minister,
Please find attached correspondence with respect to the above subject.
I'd be happy to discuss further should that be useful.
Yours faithfully,

Rob Gratton

Chief Executive Officer
CLEAN SEAS SEAFOOD LIMITED
7 Frederick Road, Royal Park, South Australia, 5014
E: rob.gratton@cleanseas.com.au
M: + 61 (0) 434 148 979
www.cleanseas.com.au

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1st March 2023

The Honourable Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project

We are writing in relation to the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant project, to provide our support for the recommendations provided by the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Working Group Site Selection Committee (SSC).

Clean Seas welcomed the establishment of the SSC by the State Government, and were pleased to be a part of this process which has seen community and business leaders from across the Southern Eyre Peninsula contribute a significant proportion of their time to this thorough and diligent review.

We understand that Peter Treloar, the independent chairperson of the SSC has written SA Water and the State Government with the SSC's recommendation, and it is now up to the SA Water Board to make a determination on their preferred location for the desalination plant. We assume this recommendation will then flow through to State Cabinet for a final decision.

We urge the State Government to endorse and support the recommendation provided by the SSC, and the chosen site at Sleaford West. The recommendation of the working group provides the Government with a solution which has the full support of community leaders, the seafood and aquaculture industries and the broader local community.

Furthermore, we believe that the Sleaford West site represents the fastest path to water security for the Eyre Peninsula, removing potential roadblocks by offering a site that carries community and industry support, and is a location that is fully scalable for the future without the need to modify ongoing operations to address environmental concerns.

It is our belief that the Billy Lights Point location fails to deliver SA Water and the State Government with a solution that holds social licence. It also unnecessarily puts fishing and aquaculture industries, upon which our local economy is so heavily reliant upon, at risk.

Clean Seas welcomes further discussion about this important project, and should there be barriers that would prohibit the Sleaford West location being chosen, we stand ready to work alongside the Government and SA Water to help overcome those barriers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly to further discuss this matter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Gratton", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Gratton
Chief Executive Officer
rob.gratton@cleanseas.com.au

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: Eyre Peninsula Seafoods Admin <admin@epseafoods.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2023 4:16 PM
To: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Subject: Desalination Plant Project
Attachments: Desalination Plant - Clare Scriven.docx

Categories: Corro - General

You don't often get email from admin@epseafoods.com.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Clare Scriven MLC,

RE: EYRE PENINSULA DESALINATION PLANT PROJECT

I am writing in relation to the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant project, to provide our support for the recommendations provided by the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Working Group.

Please see attached.

Best Regards

Mark Andrews
CEO

Eyre Peninsula Seafoods
6 Proper Bay Road, Port Lincoln SA 5606
PO Box 2976, Port Lincoln SA 5606
PH: +61 (0) 8682 3091 / **F:** +61 (0) 8682 5075
MOB: +61 (0) 427 440 194
E: mark@epseafoods.com.au



EYRE PENINSULA
seafoods



EYRE PENINSULA

seafoods

PO Box 2976
PORT LINCOLN SA 5606
P: 8682 3091

1 March 2023

Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au

Dear Clare Scriven MLC,

On behalf of Eyre Peninsula Seafoods (EP Seafoods), a retail and wholesale company that produces kinkawooka shellfish and Boston Bay mussels, I write regarding the proposed desalination plant for the southern Eyre Peninsula region.

As you may already be aware, the Site Selection Committee (SSC) has recommended that the most appropriate location for the desalination plant should be in Sleaford West. We fully support this recommendation as it was the result of an extensive and rigorous process which involved significant community engagement.

The SSC was also clear in its recommendations that it would not be appropriate for the desalination plant to be located in Boston Bay or Proper Bay. EP Seafoods remains opposed to the development of the desalination plant at Billy Lights Point in Boston Bay.

Our view is that the risk of placing the desalination plant at Billy Lights Point is too high. The Boston Bay ecosystem is too important to risk. We are concerned about the impact that the desalination plant will have on the local marine ecosystem and subsequent effects on our business and the livelihoods of our employees.

Furthermore, we commissioned a study by Professor Paul McShane, a marine biologist, research manager, and educator with over 30 years of international experience, which raises significant concerns about establishing the proposed desalination plant in Boston or Proper Bay. In his study, McShane found that the biophysical model developed by SARDI Aquatic Sciences was inadequate in characterising the risk of entrainment of mussel larvae in seawater intakes. As a result, "the magnitude of entrainment relative to source populations remains to be adequately predicted."

McShane's findings lead him to conclude that Boston and Proper Bay's be excluded from consideration for the desalination plant 'given potential harm to existing and valuable mussel aquaculture enterprises'.

We believe it is in the community's best interest for all the facts to be considered by the government when making decisions that will have long term impacts on the local area. Therefore, we urge you to recognise and accept the recommendations of the SSC.

At the end of the day, this is about ensuring that the highly productive environment in Boston Bay is protected.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Andrews', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Andrews

CEO, Eyre Peninsula Seafoods

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: Justine Carey <chair@portlincolnchamber.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 March 2023 10:16 AM
To: DPC:Premier; Office of the Deputy Premier; DTF:Treasurer; AGD:Attorney-General; DIT:Minister Koutsantonis; DPC:Office of Minister Bettison; Health:Minister for Health; DCP:Minister Hildyard; MinisterSzakacs; DHS:Minister Human Services; PIRSA:Minister Scriven; Minister Boyer; AGD:Minister Michaels; DTI:Office of Minister Champion; DIT:Minister Brock
Subject: DESAL Plant Site Selection Southern Eyre Peninsula
Attachments: DESAL Plant Site Selection EP.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: Corro - General

You don't often get email from chair@portlincolnchamber.com.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Premier and Ministers,

Please find attached my letter on behalf of the Port Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and Tourism concerning the final site selection for the desalination plant for Port Lincoln and the Southern Eyre Peninsula.

Kind regards,

Justine Carey

Chairperson

PORT LINCOLN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

PH: +61 483 023 500

chair@portlincolnchamber.com.au



01 March 2023

Dear Minister,
Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project

We are writing in relation to the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant project, to provide our support for the recommendations provided by the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Working Group Site Selection Committee (SSC).

The Port Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and Tourism welcomed the establishment of the SSC by the State Government, and were pleased to be a part of this process which has seen community and business leaders from across the Southern Eyre Peninsula contribute a significant proportion of their time to this thorough and diligent review.

We understand that Peter Treloar, the independent chairperson of the SSC has written SA Water and the State Government with the SSC's recommendation, and it is now up to the SA Water Board to make a determination on their preferred location for the desalination plant. We assume this recommendation will then flow through to State Cabinet for a final decision.

We urge the State Government to endorse and support the recommendation provided by the SSC, and the chosen site at Sleaford West. The recommendation of the working group provides the Government with a solution which has the full support of community leaders, the seafood and aquaculture industries and the broader local community.

Furthermore, we believe that the Sleaford West site represents the fastest path to water security for the Eyre Peninsula, removing potential roadblocks by offering a site that carries community and industry support, and is a location that is fully scalable for the future without the need to modify ongoing operations to address environmental concerns.

It is our belief that the Billy Lights Point location fails to deliver SA Water and the State Government with a solution that holds social licence. It also unnecessarily puts fishing and aquaculture industries, upon which our local economy is so heavily reliant upon, at risk.

The Chamber welcomes further discussion about this important project, and should there be barriers that would prohibit the Sleaford West location being chosen, we stand ready to work alongside the Government and SA Water to help overcome those barriers.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly to further discuss this matter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Justine Carey", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chairperson – Justine Carey
PORT LINCOLN CHAMBER of COMMERCE & TOURISM
chair@portlincolnchamber.com.au
PH: 0483 023 500

PORT LINCOLN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM Inc.

PO Box 1493, Port Lincoln SA 5606

ABN: 55 912 263 198

W: www.portlincolnchamber.com.au E: info@portlincolnchamber.com.au

Providing a voice for Port Lincoln business and enterprise

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula <mail@dclep.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 March 2023 12:14 PM
To: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Subject: Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project
Attachments: Scriven MP.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Corro - General

You don't often get email from mail@dclep.sa.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Minister,

On behalf of Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley, and Chief Executive Officer Delfina Lanzilli, please find attached correspondence regarding the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Project.

Thank you,



District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula
PO Box 41 | Cummins SA | 5631
Ph: (08) 8676 0400
Email: mail@dclep.sa.gov.au
Website: www.lowereyrepeninsula.sa.gov.au
Working with our rural and coastal communities



R23/4416

2 March 2023

Clare Scriven MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Via email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plan Project

We are writing in relation to the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant project, to provide our support for the recommendations provided by the Project Site Selection Committee (the Committee).

The Lower Eyre Council had previously considered the matter in October 2021 and resolved as follows:

- *That Council recognises that the selection of locations for critical infrastructure is a State and Federal Government decision and with this in mind, Council continues to advocate for critical infrastructure for its residents; and*
- *That Council is of the view that the desalination plant should not come at the cost of local industries. The economic uncertainty caused by a national COVID crisis, the risks of destroying a \$200 million per year industry and all the secondary economic impacts that would have on associated industries and jobs, as well a potential environmental impacts, are concerns for Council; and*
- *Council strongly recommends that additional capital funding be sourced by SA Water and relevant authorities in order to locate the desalination plant at Sleaford Bay (or other similar location).*

As a Council and community, we welcomed the establishment of the Committee supported by the former State Government. More particularly, we were pleased to be a part of a transparent process which has seen community and business leaders from across the Southern Eyre Peninsula contribute a combined 3,000 hours of time to this thorough and diligent process, and to deliver recommendations to SA Water and the State Government as tasked by the Minister for Environment and Water.

We understand that Peter Treloar, the independent chairperson of the Committee wrote to the Deputy Premier / Minister for Environment and Water with the recommendations of the Committee on 17 August 2022, and in a subsequent communication dated 23 December 2022.

We also understand that the current process for decision making is that the SA Water Board will make a determination on their preferred location for the desalination plant, and that this recommendation will then flow through to state cabinet for a final decision.

We urge the State Government to endorse and support the recommendation provided by the Committee which has the full support of community leaders, the seafood and aquaculture industries and the broader local community.

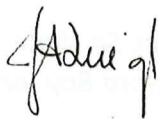
As a Council, we would welcome a discussion about this critical project, and should there be barriers that would prohibit the Sleaford West location being chosen, we stand ready to work alongside the Government and SA Water to overcome those barriers. This may include collaborating with SA Water more directly, Infrastructure SA and other government agencies to secure additional funding if that is required to deliver a desalination plant in the most suitable location.

It is our belief, that the Billy Lights Point location (referred to as the 'base case' during this process) fails to deliver SA Water and the State Government with a solution that incorporates social licence. It also unnecessarily places the fishing and aquaculture industries (which our local economy is so heavily reliant upon) at risk.

We are known as the 'Seafood Capital of Australia' and home to the largest fishing fleet in the Southern Hemisphere. This is a jewel in the crown of the State Government and we must do what we can to protect that natural environment and the industries that rely on the Proper and Boston Bay systems.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly to further discuss this matter.

Yours faithfully,



JO-ANNE QUIGLEY
MAYOR



DELFINA LANZILLI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER