

**REFERENCE: The Advertiser –Wednesday 5 May 2004 Page 22**

**ANTI-TERRORISM MEASURE HURTING BUSINESS,  
WALLAROO FIRMS SAY  
Town fears for future over jetty closure**

TRADERS and tourism operators at Wallaroo on Yorke Peninsula fear new anti-terrorism measures restricting access to the jetty will result in tourists boycotting the town.

The national security measures - which will result in the seaward two-thirds of the Wallaroo jetty being closed when a ship is alongside - come into force on July 1.

The measures are contained in the new Maritime Security Act, introduced following a national review of security for ports in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Wallaroo businesses say trade has dropped by up to 30 per cent since the jetty was closed for maintenance in March.

The Wallaroo jetty is recognised as one of the most productive on Yorke Peninsula, with visiting anglers regularly catching snapper, kingfish, squid, tommies, garfish and blue crabs from the deeper, seaward section. Locals say the new measures will see the seaward end of the jetty closed for up to 300 days a year.

John McCormack, president of the Wallaroo Tourism and Business Association, said yesterday that access to the entire jetty was crucial for the town to attract tourists.

``I think it will have quite an effect on the town," he said.

``A lot of businesses rely heavily on the fishing fraternity and families coming up here for holidays. Why can't they organise boats not to come in on long weekends?"

Brian Wheadon, who owns the Copper Coast Marine and Tackle store at Wallaroo, said tourists were already visiting other towns instead because of restrictions on jetty access.

``It has knocked us for six since the jetty has been closed for repairs," he said. ``Every shop in town has been the same because people just aren't coming here to fish from the jetty anymore.

Carl Kavina, Flinders Ports general manager of marine operations, confirmed the new measures would come into force from July 1.

``When there is a commercial vessel alongside, the public will not have access," he said. ``We are trying to have a balance between the two and the Federal Government is aware of that."

The same restrictions will apply to jetties and wharves at Port Pirie, Thevenard on the West Coast, and Port Giles on lower Yorke Peninsula.