

REFERENCE: The Advertiser Saturday 19 June 2004 Page 57

Fears for tourism if town's jetty is roped off

ONE of the state's most popular recreational jetties may be closed permanently due to concerns for public safety.

Brennan's Jetty at Port Lincoln needs \$354,000 in immediate repairs to make it safe says its operator, Flinders Ports, which controls seven South Australian ports.

The company made the decision to look at preventing public access after a damning engineering review on the Number 2 Berth at Port Lincoln found 60 structural timber piles were "30 per cent solid or less" and that 48 of the piles needed immediate replacing.

Flinders Ports says it is prepared to commit \$100,000 towards the upgrade of the popular tourist jetty that runs off the main commercial jetty and is seeking the same financial commitment from Port Lincoln City Council so remedial work can commence immediately.

But mayor Peter Davis said yesterday the council would not pay for the repairs and Flinders Ports had a legal obligation to keep the jetty open to the public - an issue which, he said, needed to be resolved between the company and the State Government.

Flinders Ports chief executive officer Vincent Tremaine said the council appeared to have a previous arrangement with the State Government requiring the Government to provide appropriate funding.

"Flinders Ports is not a party to that agreement, and as such, is required to continue to negotiate with the council to ensure the necessary repair work is undertaken as soon as possible, and that the jetty does not remain closed any longer than necessary," Mr Tremaine said. "If these negotiations fail, and we are hopeful they won't, the jetty will be closed in the near future pending a decision from an independent arbitrator.

"If the jetty is not repaired, there is an unacceptable risk to public safety due to the potential structural failure - it is as simple as that." Adam Beattie, 63, of Salisbury, said he visited Port Lincoln twice a year to fish on the jetty.

"The fishing here is very good, but if they got rid of the jetty I don't think I'd be coming back," he said.