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## **Calls for Penrice to clean the Port**

PENRICE Soda Holdings faces paying more than \$1.5 million to dredge Adelaide's Port River if it loses a court battle with Flinders Ports.

Penrice, which has a riverside chemical production plant at Osborne, is fighting a demand by harbour operator Flinders Ports and the State Government that it dredge 2.7km of the river which they say it silted up.

Penrice is arguing in the Supreme Court that it only caused about 35 per cent of the sediment and there was no evidence its silt obstructed navigation in the river.

It further argues the two complainants have no power to compel it to act and that the removal of its silt would not restore the river channel to the extent required.

Flinders Ports wants it to pay for dredging to a depth of 9.3m over a width of 140m.

It says silt deposited by Penrice ``has reduced substantially the effective width of the shipping channel so that the channel no longer conforms to the guidelines issued by the Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses".

Dredging quotes given in court documents range from \$1.57 million to \$477,200.

Penrice has set aside \$1.6 million for remediation this year but yesterday would not say how much of this was for possible dredging and would not comment on the case, as it was still before the court.

An affidavit by Penrice's Osborne general manager, Gilbert Calaby, says there are about five other manufacturers discharging waste into the river. He asserts ``at least 65 per cent" of the silt is not from (Penrice)".

The dispute is over silt discharged until 2001, when Penrice stopped the practice.

Only cooling water, containing a negligible amount of sediment, is now discharged.