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Project offer goes to Flinders Ports

A CONSORTIUM led by Flinders Ports has been selected as the preferred bidder to build a new bulk export facility at Port Bonython.

Infrastructure Minister Patrick Conlon will announce today that the Spencer Gulf Port Link Consortium (SGPLC) has been chosen from 10 groups which were bidding for the right to develop the project.

SGPLC now has four months to demonstrate it can develop and operate a bulk commodity port at Port Bonython without any financial contribution from the State Government.

Flinders Ports chief executive Vincent Tremaine said the viability of any port would depend on the costs versus the agreements which could be signed with potential customers.

He estimated a port could cost \$400 million but stressed this was not a firm figure.

``We have to match the costs with customer agreements. . . we've got a lot of work to do before we can say whether this is a feasible project in full.

``We're very optimistic about it. We've done a lot of work on the design but we haven't had the opportunity to sit down with the potential customers yet."

A number of mining companies have been pressuring the State Government to help the development of Port Bonython.

The port is already used by Santos for LPG transport, but would need to be upgraded for the export of commodities such as iron ore.

The port is likely to include:

A 3KM-LONG jetty reaching into deep water, with enclosed conveyors and a ship loader.

THE jetty being designed to handle ``Cape" size ships carrying up to 180,000 tonnes of cargo

SIGNIFICANT rail and storage facilities on land adjacent the jetty precinct. The Spencer Gulf Port Link Consortium comprises Flinders Port Holdings, Leighton Contractors, Macquarie Capital, BIS Industrial Logistics and ARTC.

Flinders Ports currently operates port facilities at Port Adelaide, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Wallaroo, Thevenard, Port Giles and Klein Point in SA.