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## **Grain farmers want a say on deep-water port**

SOUTH Australia's peak farming body has called on the State Government to examine the proposal for a deep-sea port at Port Stanvac.

The SA Farmers Federation, which has backed a similar venture at Outer Harbor, now wants the Government to delay announcing a decision on the preferred site. The federation's Grains Council chairman, Jeff Arney, said he would "like to hear the Government's reasoning behind any decision it might make against Port Stanvac".

"Our responsibility is to get the best outcome on behalf of grain growers and, therefore, we need to clarify all outstanding issues," he said.

The Australian wheat and barley boards last month proposed a \$100 million grain terminal and berth at Mobil's Port Stanvac oil refinery and a freight rail link along the existing line from Goodwood to Noarlunga.

Several large grain growers last week backed the boards' concerns that insufficient channel depth as well as port and transport charges at the Outer Harbor terminal would potentially undermine the grain industry.

Industry pressure yesterday forced the Government to delay its endorsement of the Outer Harbor venture by Flinders Ports and grain handler Ausbulk.

However, Premier Mike Rann remained concerned about a proposed rail link for freight trains between Goodwood and Noarlunga.

"We'd have obviously huge pressure from local residents who'd greatly resent the noise of the trains going through the southern suburbs," Mr Rann said.

"My view is that you can't have a ludicrous situation of developing two ports.

"We're doing a lot to develop the Port of Adelaide . . . I just think there is a lot of silliness going on.

"The Cabinet is leaning towards consolidation at the Port of Adelaide." Lonsdale businesses and McLaren Vale wine producers said a standardised rail link would improve their competitiveness and boost economic development in the southern suburbs.

A feasibility study on the Port Stanvac port proposal will be completed by the end of the week.