



**SEPFA**  
South Eastern Professional  
Fishermen's Association Inc.

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Association Inc.

PO Box 3450  
NORWOOD SA 5067

[DELETED]

30 March 2017

Janey Mitson  
Manager, Road and Marine Assets  
Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 1533  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Ms Mitson,

**RE: Repairing and Reconstruction of the Southend Jetty**

I am writing on behalf of the South Eastern Professional Fishermen's Association (SEPFA), of which the Southend Fishermen's Association is one of seven member ports. SEPFA is responsible for representing the interests of the South Australian Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (SZRLF) and is governed by a Committee of industry leaders from each port.

It came to the Committee's attention in November last year that the Southend Jetty had been damaged due to an extreme weather event that affected large parts of South Australia, in particular, the Limestone Coast region. The weather event and subsequent damage to the jetty was immediately reported by the Southend Fishermen's Association to the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and the Wattle Range Council.

In the following weeks and months, the President of the Southend Fishermen's Association, Mr James Green and I (as the Executive Officer of SEPFA), have been in constant dialogue with DPTI about the urgency with which repairs and reconstruction of the jetty were required. For the past five months, which happens to be the busiest months of the year for our fishery, access to parts of the jetty has been limited resulting in over-crowding creating a potentially dangerous work place for our fishermen. The jetty, at full capacity, is barely sufficient to deal with the activity of the commercial fishing fleet that Southend supports.

The SZRLF is South Australia's most valuable commercial fishery, generating around \$300 million worth of economic activity for the State each year. Much of this directly supports the regional coastal communities and economies in the South East and Limestone Coast regions. Further, employment attributable to the fishery exceeds 1,300 full time equivalent positions. Southend is one of the SZRLF's most important ports and contributes to a significant percentage of the figures documented above.

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In recent conversations with Mr Leon Mase, DPTI, both the Southend Fishermen's Association and SEPFA have been advised that the tender process to undertake repairs to the jetty had concluded, the successful applicant had been advised and work was due to start shortly. This is very welcome news but for the operators that use the Southend jetty, five months for work to begin on repairs and reconstruction to such a vital piece of infrastructure for our industry is unacceptable. We would welcome the chance to discuss how these types of processes may be improved for issues of an urgent nature affecting our industry.

Further to the above, at a recent meeting of the Southend Fishermen's Association, which I attended on behalf of SEPFA, members of the association expressed concern about the 'hard' poly fenders deployed on the Southend jetty. It was noted that the 'hard' fenders were only useable during favourable weather and that using them in unfavourable weather increased the likelihood of damage to both the jetty and the vessel. It was the recommendation of the Southend Fishermen's Association that the 'hard' poly fenders be replaced immediately by the more 'flexible' fenders in their entirety or at least when the fenders were due or required replacement.

It would be appreciated if this request could be taken into account as part of the current repair work or in future, scheduled, maintenance.

SEPFA and the Southend Fishermen's Association look forward to the repairs and reconstruction of the Southend jetty being completed and I would be happy to provide further information if required. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

[DELETED]

Nathan Kimber  
**Executive Officer**  
South Eastern Professional Fishermen's Association Inc.

10 October 2018

PO Box 395  
GLENELG SA 5067  
[DELETED]  
Web: [www.sarlac.com.au](http://www.sarlac.com.au)

The Hon Stephan Knoll  
Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government  
Level 12, 136 North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Via email: [ministerknoll@sa.gov.au](mailto:ministerknoll@sa.gov.au)  
Cc: [ministerwhetstone@sa.gov.au](mailto:ministerwhetstone@sa.gov.au)

Dear Minister Knoll,

**RE: Request for meeting to discuss marine infrastructure issues**

I am writing on behalf of the South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Council (SARLAC), which represents the interests of the 243 Commercial Rock Lobster Licence Holders in the State. SARLAC has two members, the South Australian Northern Zone Rock Fishermen's Association (SANZRLFA) and the South Eastern Professional Fishermen's Association (SEPFA).

SARLAC has become increasingly concerned with the degenerative state of marine infrastructure in South Australia, much of which is vital to the day-to-day operations of the fishermen and processors of the Rock Lobster Fishery. Whilst, the need for regular upgrading, maintenance and repair of marine infrastructure has been highlighted and expressed to the department by our Council in the past, we are now of the opinion that things are critical in many ports around South Australia. I have included below a list of ports and/or facilities of significant concern:

- Port Lincoln Marina
- Kingscote (slipway and fishermen's jetty)
- Cape Jaffa Marina
- Beachport (boat ramp and jetty)
- Southend (jetty and boat ramp)

SARLAC is aware that in some cases the department is not solely responsible for the management of these marine infrastructure facilities, and thus, we will need the support of Local Government and where necessary private enterprise to address our issues.

Further to the concerns raised above, is the current status of the arrangement that SARLAC has in place to manage 10 waste oil stations around the State. SARLAC has been liaising with your department to seek some certainty around that arrangement continuing, for at least the remainder of this financial year. SARLAC requires this, so we can put in place arrangements with the managers we have on the ground, at the various fishing ports where these stations are situated.

As recently as last week your Department advised us that they wouldn't be entering in to any agreement with SARLAC for a specified period of time (i.e. the remainder of the 2018-19 year), rather that we should invoice retrospectively on a monthly basis to recover our costs. This arrangement is unacceptable as it leaves SARLAC carrying the burden of contracts with our on-ground managers, without the security of knowing that funding will be forthcoming from the department. Adding to our frustration is that the contract in its entirety for the financial year is worth approximately 30k, which seems a very small commitment for the department to make to ensure these stations are continued to be managed effectively.

The Rock Lobster Fishery now represents the most valuable seafood sector of the State, contributing around \$450m in annual economic activity and over 1,650 jobs (full time equivalents). As well as being a significant contributor to the State's economy, the fishery's operation is pivotal to the economic and social fabric of the coastal cities, towns and communities of South Australia. What underpins all of this, is having access to a network of infrastructure and facilities that enables our members to undertake their activities in a safe and professional manner.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, along with Nathan Kimber (Executive Officer, SARLAC and SEPFA) and Kyri Toumazos (Executive Officer, SANZRLFA) to discuss and progress our issues. Nathan Kimber, Executive Officer SARLAC, should be contacted on [DELETED] or at [DELETED] to arrange a meeting.

In the meantime, if you or your office would like to discuss this further, I can be contacted on [DELETED].

Yours sincerely

[DELETED]

Rob Kerin  
**Chair**  
South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Council Inc.