



Show of support

By **Peri Strathearn**

SHACK lessees and the State Opposition showed solidarity at Parliament House last week as they continued to fight for increased lease rights.

On Wednesday, hundreds of people congregated on the steps of Parliament to protest the State Government's position on shack leases on Crown land and in national parks.

Lessees want responsibility for the lifetime shack leases transferred to local councils which may allow them to upgrade the shacks, as well as ceasing the stipulation of terminating lease agreements upon the death of the owner.

In the Legislative Council the fight progressed a step further with the passage of Liberal MP Michelle Lensink's Crown Land Management

(Life Lease Sites) Amendment Bill, with the support of independents.

Ms Lensink said support for shack lessees would be a government priority if the Liberals were elected next March.

"South Australia's shacks should be preserved for future generations," she said.

"Their wholesale removal makes no sense and is an attack on our lifestyle and heritage."

Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick said his party's strengthened support represented a win for shack lessees along the Coorong and at Milang.

He particularly thanked Coorong Shack Owners Association president Geoff Gallasch, Port Milang Shack

Owners Association president Keith Turner and Alexandrina councillor Keith Parkes for their hard work

towards the cause.

Under Labor, the State Government has favoured restrictions on shack ownership on Crown land and in national parks.

A fortnight ago, Environment Minister Ian Hunter described Ms

Lensink's campaign as "the Liberal Party at its privatising best" and said she had effectively wanted to allow a select few people exclusive use of what would otherwise be public land.



Shack love: Liberal MP Michelle Lensink, pictured centre, greets one of the protesters on the steps of State Parliament as they demand more flexible lease conditions for shacks on Crown land and in national parks.