
Study Tour Report

Port Lincoln

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Member for Hammond

April 14 to 18, 2009

Tour Objective:

The aim of the Port Lincoln trip was to consult with stakeholders involved with the fishing and agriculture industries on the Eyre Peninsula.

As the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, I wished to meet with people who were directly involved with my portfolio responsibilities.

It was also an opportunity to view some of the development that has occurred on the Eyre Peninsula over the past few years.

Day 1 - April 14

- Accompanied by Liberal Candidate Peter Treloar, I met with David Ellis from the Tuna Boat Owners Association, who informed me of the issues involved with tuna farming. David was also concerned with the proposal to export iron ore from the Port Lincoln terminal.

I met with South Australian Seafood (Boston Bay Mussels) General Manager Mark Andrews and inspected their mussel processing plant.



- A briefing by Colin Freeman on fishing compliance procedures was most useful and interesting.
- In the afternoon I met with Steve Moriarty and inspected his seafood processing, marketing and export business. Steve is concerned with the State Government's Marine Parks proposal, as well as the processes to roll out the plan.
- Greg Palmer and Karen Hollamby, from the Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Fisherman Association, gave an overview on how the association manages prawn fishery sustainability. They also put forward their concerns regarding the Marine Parks proposal.

Day 2 – April 15

- Tour of the Cleanseas fish breeding facility at Arno Bay. I was very impressed with the tuna breeding facility and the technology involved.
- Met with Tumby Bay Mayor Graham Stirling and was briefed on local issues such as drought relief and development in the area.

Day 3 – April 16

- Drove to Elliston with Liz Penfold, Member for Flinders, and Peter Treloar, Liberal candidate for Flinders, and met with Australian Bight Abalone Director Ken Bascomb. Ken briefed me on issues involved with the breeding and farming of abalone.
- Visited the Visitor Information Centre and inspected the huge volunteer effort in refurbishing the town hall.
- Met with fisherman Nick Paul at Port Kenny to discuss issues concerning the prawn fishing industry.



- That evening I attended the SA Masters Games Sportsman's Dinner at Thevenard Sports Club.

- Stayed overnight in Ceduna.

Day 4 – April 17

- Travelled from Ceduna to Mudamuckla and met with Peter Kuhlmann at his farm. Peter is the chairman of the Eyre Peninsula Agricultural Research Foundation. We discussed possible budget cuts to agriculture and whether Minnipa Agriculture Centre would continue to operate effectively. Also discussed were programs such as Eyre Peninsula Farming Systems, Grain and Graze and food security. I also inspected Peter's one pass seeding equipment sowing canola.

- Visited the Minnipa Agriculture Centre and was given an extensive briefing on the research undertaken at the centre by the staff.

- Travelled to Wudinna and was present at the official launch of the 'Australian Farmer' – a granite sculpture that not only epitomises farming but also how communities work together.

- Travelled to Port Lincoln. Stayed overnight in Port Lincoln.

Day 5 – April 18

- Travelled from Port Lincoln to Coomandook.

Summary

Visiting the Eyre Peninsula was a great opportunity to appreciate the diversity of business and also the vast potential of the area. The contribution of the fishing and farming industries on the Eyre Peninsula is huge for this state and should not be underestimated.



Research and development is a key focus of both sectors, as is sustainability. It was pleasing to see the number of research programs being conducted at the Minnipa Agricultural Centre, especially in the field of low rainfall farming techniques.

Governments should support and foster the development of Eyre Peninsula to ensure it achieves its full potential. This was also evident with the marina and tourism opportunities taking shape.

Also the mining potential of the area needs to be explored and expanded.

Infrastructure such as roads, ports, power supplies and water supply and management will be the key in seeing the full development of the Eyre Peninsula unfold.

LODGED
J. J. Mellis
13/8/09

16/7/09
A. Deakin