

Port Lincoln Times



The second edition of Eyre Magazine. **INSIDE**

Celebrating state's Women in Business. **INSIDE**



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It's all on the line

THE stage is set for a massive showdown tomorrow night, as Marble Range and Boston prepare to do battle in the Port Lincoln women's football grand final.

Poole Oval is the venue for the decider, which will be contested by the season's two best teams - and only

previous champions to date.

Respective captains Mardi Mason, Alexandra Mason, Tammie Waters and Jaz Hill are dreaming of being the ones to get their hands on the shield.

FULL PREVIEW PAGE 15



(Charlotte Martin: 468041)

Pesky desal pipes

CHARLOTTE MARTIN

FLINDERS MP Sam Telfer highlighted the Port Lincoln community's ongoing concerns for the desalination plant at Billy Lights Point during a speech in State Parliament.

It comes as SA Water started stage two of early works at the site this month, beginning to clear vegetation and construct a new entrance road from St Andrews Drive.

In parliament on Thursday, February 20, Mr

Telfer highlighted concerns in response to the Public Works Committee report.

"I think probably just as much of interest to me and my community is what was not said within the report on the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant," he said.

"What was not said was that there continues to be significant community concern and opposition to the proposed location of this plant at Billy Lights Point."

Mr Telfer posted part of his speech on his

Facebook page, calling out information he said was pertinent to the community and its aquaculture and fishing industry.

"There is only 550 metres between the outfall of the Port Lincoln wastewater plant and the proposed intake pipeline for the desalination plant, and only 750m between the outfall of that wastewater plant and the proposed outfall pipe of the desalination plant, all within the slow-moving waters of the bay area of Port Lincoln," he said.

"Water supply continues to be one of the most prominent concerns of our community, but there also needs to be smarter decisions made about the solutions to those concerns."

The Eyre Peninsula Desalination plant is a \$330 million project.

"If it goes ahead at this dollar figure it will be the equivalent biggest capital investment into the southern Eyre Peninsula in history," Mr Telfer said.

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SALT

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Water to help Taylor sheep

CHARLOTTE MARTIN

TAYLOR Island's 600-odd sheep were given a helping hand from the Tacoma last week, as the dry reached its shores.

The retired fishing vessel left Port Lincoln on Tuesday, March 18 and stayed overnight, then transferred 14 tonnes of water via a 200-metre floating poly pipe on Wednesday.

Skipper Ross Haldane said it all went perfectly, with the process taking four hours.

"We were able to use the Tacoma's pumps to pump the water ashore to a tank and then they transferred it to their own watering system," he said.

"The island itself had only received about 120 millimetres of rain in the last year - normally they get about 400mm - so they were way down on their long-term rainfall. The island appears to have just sort of missed out on rain last year as well as a lot of other various people and places.

"We left on Tuesday evening because we had to get out, there was a low tide in the morning."

Mr Haldane said the islanders may need a top-up trip, weather dependent.

"There was water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink," he said.

"The Tacoma in its long nautical history has delivered aviation fuel, sheep and various other bits and pieces to the islands, mainly Wedge Island because that was the major fishing route heading towards Kangaroo Island."

The Tacoma has a history of quirky quests to assist the community - Mr Haldane recalled the story of Richard Davis needing retrieval after he broke his arm on Boston Island in 1956.

Mr Davis was playing on granite boulders at Point Maria, the northern point.

"There was a strong north-westerly gale," Mr Haldane said.

"A rescue message was sent to the radio station in Port Lincoln who then contacted Tacoma.

"During those days the little cutters couldn't have gone out in a nor-westerly gale."

The Tacoma crew completed the rescue mission and took Mr Davis to the hospital, who in later years went on to become a doctor.

"In the same decade Tacoma assisted in the refloating of the Hecla by Thistle Island," Mr Haldane said.



Ray Watherston with his tinny dog Tom on the way to retrieve the pipe that brought water to his sheep. (Supplied)

Questions remain as desal work progresses

FROM PAGE 1

"There are still so many questions that are unanswered for my community. As part of the report that was just presented to us they did briefly discuss the Barnjarla corporation and the Indigenous heritage aspect of this project.

"What it does not say in this report is that, indeed, the Barnjarla corporation wrote to the Premier near on a year-and-a-half ago and they said under no circumstances would they come to an Aboriginal heritage agreement with the government on this site - under no circumstances."

Barnjarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation deputy chairman Jason Bilney previously told the Port Lincoln Times he and his community believe the state government is not recognising the cultural and heritage value of the country and waters at Billy Lights Point.

At the February Port Lincoln City Council meeting, councillors reiterated their support for a climate independent water supply while expressing opposition to the desalination plant being located at Billy Lights Point.

In doing so it also reaffirmed support for the Site Selection Committee's recommended location at Sleaford West and resolved to continue to advocate the position.

The council also expressed its support for the Barnjarla position on the matter.

Mayor Diana Mislov said she believed it was never too late for the state government to have a change of heart or mind, once community consultation was complete.

"The City of Port Lincoln, EPLGA [Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association], the fishing industry, Barnjarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation, the Parliamentary Select Committee on Water Supply Needs of the Eyre Peninsula, and our wider community have voiced their concerns, and support the original Site Selection Committee recommendations and/or combining with the Northern Waters Project for water security," she said.

"We look to the state government to stand up for Port Lincoln, much as the premier in WA supported the community of Albany, by changing the location, or overruling the development

application, and we continue to advocate, in line with [the] council's resolution."

In January, Western Australia premier Roger Cook confirmed there would be no desalination plant, following strong advocacy from local member Rebecca Stephens on behalf of the Albany community.

Western Australian Water Corporation was still in the investigative and design stages at the time of its premier's announcement.

The Eyre Peninsula desalination project at Billy Lights Point received development approval in December 2024 enabling the project to proceed into the construction phase.

Port Lincoln City Council chief executive officer Eric Brown said the council was continuing to advocate for the community with SA Water to ensure ongoing concerns were being raised at the appropriate level.

"Conversations with the SA Water project team are continuing and have been constructive to date with amendments being made to address some of the concerns raised," he said.



Flinders MP Sam Telfer has advocated for the desalination intake pipes locations to be reconsidered. (File)

Port Lincoln Times

Tied the Knot?

Share your special day with our Port Lincoln readers. Our editorial team welcomes submissions of local wedding photos.

To have your photos included in an upcoming feature edition please email the team at editorial@portlincolntimes.com.au

Phone: 8682 1055
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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board: External (Independent) Member of the Risk, Audit and Finance Committee

An opportunity exists for an External (Independent) Member to join the Risk, Audit and Finance Committee of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board (the Board).

Reporting directly to the Board, the function and responsibility of the Committee is to provide advice and comment to the Board in the areas of risk management; internal controls; annual financial statements; compliance; internal and external audit; fraud control; policy recommendation; and other matters as required.

With meetings held quarterly in Port Lincoln, appointment will be for an initial term of 2 years and payments are made on a sessional basis. Skills and experience are sought in the areas of:

- risk management
- audit
- finance
- legal
- governance
- legislative compliance or landscape leadership/administrative background.

To register your interest, please submit your resume with a letter detailing the skills and attributes you can bring to the role to the Board's Manager Planning and Business Support on email - susan.stovell@sa.gov.au.

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 4 April, 2025.

Appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Criminal History Check.

For further information, please contact Susan Stovell, Manager Planning and Business Support on email - susan.stovell@sa.gov.au



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