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**FRIENDS OF THE RAPID BAY JETTY  
RECEIVE ENGINEERS REPORT  
THROUGH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.**

Since 1998, Transport SA has progressively closed sections of Rapid Bay Jetty to the public with the latest closure on Christmas Eve 2004 leaving a paltry 120m of the original 470M open to the public. The Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty have been frustrated for some time that they did not have access to factual reports about the structural condition of the jetty.

In July the Friends met with Sandra Kanck, the Democrats Leader in the South Australian Legislative Council to discuss some of their concerns relating to the closure. Sandra agreed to assist by requesting documents through the Freedom of Information Act. Within the required 45 days, Transport SA had provided engineers' reports dating from 1992 to the latest December 2004 report.

The reports revealed what was already widely known or suspected. The structure of the jetty to bent 75 was in a poor state with wooden pilings heavily worn away (necked). The superstructure was described as poor with a good risk of collapse. Overall loss to metal supporting flanges was estimated at 50%, with 32 out of 387 having no structural strength at all. It is obvious that after assessing this report and doing a subsequent risk analysis that this is why Transport SA closed the jetty. Estimates in 1998 for a construction of a 200m timber decked jetty with a 3M width ranged between \$1.5-\$2 million. One surprising outcome from recent reports is that it did not take into consideration the end "T" section which was considered to be 'reasonably good' after being rebuilt in 1968.

Glenice Galbraith, spokesperson for the Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty said, "I am grateful that now the thousands of fishers and divers that have previously accessed the jetty over the last 40 years could now share in this information. Yes, the jetty was closed for the right reasons but what about the future of the jetty". She went on to say, "It would take a full and exhaustive environmental impact study to build a jetty if one was not there, but none to see it disappear. That just doesn't seem like good governance to me. Rapid Bay Jetty has been a very popular focal point for shore based fishers both able bodied and handicapped for years and is extremely well known in the international dive community as the home of the unique Leafy Seadragon which is also our State's marine emblem. To take the jetty away or just let it waste away would socially, economically and environmentally reprehensible".

The Friends have formed a joint delegation including other stakeholders to seek a meeting with the Minister of Transport, Patrick Conlon, to discuss the jetty's future.

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