



Rapid Bay Jetty Revitalisation Statement – May 2005

The Rapid Bay Jetty (RBJ) and surrounding area is a State Marine Icon. It has historical significance, with many economic, recreational and ecological benefits. It is the largest accessible deep water fishing platform in South Australia. It provides a unique environment, and is recognized overseas, interstate and within the State as the home of our State's marine emblem, the Leafy Sea Dragon. The majority of Rapid Bay Jetty has been closed since December 24th 2004.

It is the declared intention of the group, Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty (FRBJ) to have the Jetty repaired / rebuilt to the pre 1995-decked area. This includes replacing the deck out to the East and West dolphins. This work shall be completed by November 2007.

The width of the decking will be kept to the existing width of the main structure from shore, and shall include the additional width that accommodated the loading gantry area. The width at the "T" section will remain the same.

All work on the Jetty or surrounding environs, including any future adjoining developments, shall employ best practices to cause minimal negative impact to the surrounding seabed and all marine organisms that inhabit the area.

Whilst the completed works may take some time to arrange, work to protect and maintain the existing structure must begin immediately. The Jetty shall be reopened to public access by November 1st 2005. This short-term objective must not compromise the long-term vision of complete restoration of the Jetty, and this restoration may include some commercial developments.

The FRBJ strongly oppose any changes to the design of the structure, from the commercial wharf that it is, to any modified design. The concern is that there is no evidence to show the effects of any changes and as such they must be regarded as potentially destructive to the unique conditions that have allowed Rapid Bay Jetty to become what it is today.

To protect this unique series of circumstances that have led to the creation of the thriving and rare marine ecosystem that exists around the Rapid Bay Jetty, any commercial development must be compatible with the overall vision, and must substantially contribute to the ongoing costs of future maintenance of the structure and adjoining land and seabed.

FRBJ Group Statement May 2005