

Demand for answers on jetty as jobs go



KEEN: A lone fisherman tries his luck by the blocked entry to the jetty.

The Advertiser WATCH

THE PROBLEM

Locals want the Rapid Bay jetty closed last December, either replaced or upgraded.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE

Dr James Horne, chief executive officer, Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure.

PHONE: 8204 8200

EMAIL: james.horne@saugov.sa.gov.au

WEEKS ON WATCH

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THE RESPONSE

Department of Transport spokeswoman Nikki Stewart told The Advertiser. The department has been "in preliminary discussions with Adelaide Brighton Cement about access to the jetty."

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CLOSURE | Big effect on business

XANTHE KLEING
CIVIC REPORTER

RAPID Bay jetty is no closer to being re-opened than when it closed almost one year ago, and locals are getting desperate.

The Transport Department says an environmental assessment on the jetty is complete and discussions over access have begun with land owner, Adelaide Brighton Cement about access to the jetty.

But businesses in the area say they are down on sales and have laid off staff, with some considering closing their doors for good.

Delamere general store owner Glenice Galbraith said the jetty's closure has had a "huge and immediate impact". "From the day it closed, in the first couple of weeks we were almost \$10,000 down in peak time," she said.

"We have suffered a lot - in Normanville there is one business talking about closing and

others are quite down on fishing sales."

The Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty are upset there has been "no movement" on an environmental assessment of the jetty despite being promised an announcement on its future before Christmas. "It is very disappointing; people are losing heart," according to group spokesman Christopher

Not too keen to invest resources on private land

Deane. "Time is running out, it was closed on Christmas Eve last year, and it would be nice to have a present this year to say something is going to be done."

Ms Galbraith said she was disappointed Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty had not been contacted by Transport Minister Patrick Conlon about the jetty.

Yankalilla council chief executive Roger Sweetman, told

The Advertiser last month "our position is still the same".

"If the (State) Government undertakes repairs to the jetty and if they can sort out legal access to the jetty, then we will undertake work on the land side," he said.

Mr Sweetman said improvements to the car park, toilets and lighting around the jetty were "conditional upon (the Government) sorting out access to the jetty and undertaking the work on the jetty".

"We are not too keen to invest resources on private land," he said.

Department of Transport spokeswoman Nikki Stewart yesterday said work on the jetty's assessment was complete. "The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure is considering options and is working on final designs for the Rapid Bay Jetty after receiving a survey report and an environmental assessment report," she said.