

Delay in work on new jetty



DAMAGED: Rapid Bay Jetty – still a public hazard.

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POLITICAL REPORTER

CONSTRUCTION of a \$3.9 million jetty at Rapid Bay has been delayed until early next year, the Government says.

As reported by *The Advertiser Watch* in June, construction had been due to start last month.

But geotechnical work has only been completed recently, with tenders from shortlisted construction companies for the final jetty design to be called next week.

The jetty, about 100km south of Adelaide, has been closed to the public since June, 2003, because of decay and storm damage.

Regarded as one of the best fishing and diving sites in the nation, the lack of public access has upset residents and stunted tourism.

In a significant victory for local activists and *The Advertiser Watch*, which had campaigned for almost a year for a decision on the jetty's future, the Government in September, 2006, announced that a concrete and steel jetty would be built beside the existing structure.

A Transport Department spokeswoman yesterday said tenders for the final design and construction of the new jetty close in late February and the Government hopes to begin construction by the end of April.

Completed geotechnical investigations had involved drilling several land-based bores, conducting over-water geophysical surveys and pile-driving along the line of the proposed new jetty.

"The geotechnical investigations confirm the suitability of the alignment for the jetty and will be used to inform final designs," the spokeswoman said.

"A key focus of the project has always been to minimise the impact on the existing marine environment and to protect marine



THE PROBLEM
Rapid Bay jetty closed to fishing and diving. The jetty has been closed since June, 2003, because of decay and storm damage.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE

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THE RESPONSE

Tenders for the final design and construction of the new jetty close in late February and the Government hopes to begin construction by the end of April.

animals from construction impacts. International divers on site at the time pile-driving was undertaken have reported negligible noise levels and disturbance to the environment during piling activities."

Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty spokesman Antony King said the community was happy as long as the project remained on track to be finished by next Christmas.

"At the end of the day, that deadline is the key for us," Mr King said.

"We are of the understanding it will be finished by Christmas 2008. If it is not going to meet that sort of target, then we'll be very disappointed."

He said the Christmas holiday period was when a reopened jetty was most needed.