

Cautious approach to jetty restructure

MICHAEL OWEN

THE State Government hopes work can begin on rebuilding the Rapid Bay jetty - closed for almost 18 months because of safety concerns - by the end of the year.

The Government - which made a pre-election promise to fund the rebuilding - yesterday said it was proceeding with caution due to environmental concerns.

As one of SA's best fishing spots and a home for leafy seadragons, the jetty was a major Fleurieu tourism attraction. The jetty is presently closed from the 120m mark, with security fencing blocking access.

During the past month, government officers have held discussions on future plans for the jetty with Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty, the SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (SARFAC), the Scuba Divers Association, the District Council of Yankalilla and Adelaide Brighton Cement, the owners of the land which provides access to the jetty. Infrastructure



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THE PROBLEM
 Most of the Rapid Bay jetty closed for fishing and diving for almost 18 months.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE
NAME: Patrick Conlon
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THE RESPONSE
 The State Government is working with interested groups with a view to begin rebuilding work by the end of the year.

Minister Patrick Conlon yesterday told *The Advertiser Watch* the government was looking at options that took into account the perspectives of the divers and fishermen who used the

area, as well as the need to preserve the environment that has developed around the existing structure.

"The Government understands from environmental investigations we have un-

dertaken that we need to be careful we don't just look at engineering solutions," Mr Conlon said.

"We need to ensure that the work we undertake does not destroy the environ-

ment that attracts the diving and fishing communities to the area. We are committed to coming up with the best, most feasible solution that will meet the needs of all parties."