

## JETTIES, RAPID BAY

9 May 2006

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Infrastructure, a question regarding the Rapid Bay jetty.

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** In a media report in the *Victor Harbor Times* of 24 February 2005 it was reported that the state government had plans to rebuild the Rapid Bay jetty, which had been closed for 18 months due to safety concerns.

Glenice Galbraith, a member of the Friends of the Rapid Bay Jetty, is quoted as having said that there is a lack of action from the various government departments. The Friends of the Rapid Bay Jetty have asked the state government to look at examples, such as the Busselton Jetty in Western Australia, where a threatened jetty has become an excellent tourist site, with an underwater viewing centre. Another concern of the group involves the preservation of the leafy seadragon, which can be found only in southern Australia around the Rapid Bay Jetty area. Friends of the Rapid Bay Jetty say that they have a petition with over 2 500 signatures calling for the reopening of the jetty. My questions to the minister are:

1. Has the government formally responded to the petition?
2. What will the government do to preserve the leafy seadragon and make South Australians and tourists aware of its existence and need for protection?
3. What date can the government give to assure the Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty and other concerned citizens that work on rebuilding the jetty will begin?

## **RAPID BAY JETTY**

**2 November 2006**

In reply to **Hon. D.G.E. HOOD** (9 May 2006).

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The Minister for Infrastructure has provided the following information:

1. The government has responded to the petition from Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty by holding talks with the group as well as other interested parties in the region including the Yankalilla District Council.

These meetings have been used to redefine the options for the area to meet the community needs of access to the deep water environment around the "T" section of the jetty. These negotiations are continuing.

2. The Leafy Seadragon (*Phycodurus eques*) is South Australia's marine emblem. Leafy Seadragons are only found in Southern Australian waters. The South Australian Dragon Search Project has recordings of Leafy Seadragons from Ceduna to Kangaroo Island and the South East of the State. The majority of South Australian sightings have been in Gulf St Vincent, including Rapid Bay.

The Syngnathidae family, which includes the Leafy Seadragon, was given full protection under the Fisheries Act 1982 as per Gazette of 25 January 2006. Therefore any species that belongs to that family is a legally protected species. Taking of any individual from South Australian waters requires a permit.

The Coast Protection Board and the Department for Environment and Heritage has been working proactively in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Resources and other organisations, such as the South Australian Tourism Commission, the Marine Discover Centre, Marine Life Society of South Australia, WWF, Threatened Species Network and The

Marine and Coastal Community Network, to produce educational material to make South Australians and tourists aware of the existence of the Leafy Seadragon and the need for its protection. Examples of this work include a Code of Conduct with guidelines for divers to reduce their impact on Seadragons, a brochure on South Australia's Dive Secrets that includes information on Environmental Awareness and Marine Protection, and a Leafy Seadragon Education Kit for Primary Schools.

3. In close consultation with the community, the government has developed a range of options to provide access to the diving and fishing sites at Rapid Bay. The options are being further developed and costed and will be discussed with the interest groups, including the Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty, before making a final recommendation on how best to provide access to the site.