



THE TACOMA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

HELPING TO PRESERVE OUR FISHING HISTORY

MEDIA RELEASE

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Port Lincoln Council Candidates Asked to Commit to Marina Community Pontoon

The Tacoma Preservation Society (TPS) has written to candidates seeking election to the next Port Lincoln Council in November. The ten potential Councillors and two Mayoral candidates have been asked to indicate their support or otherwise for the construction of a 90-metre x 200 tonne capacity community pontoon in the Lincoln Cove Marina, adjacent to the Fishermen's Memorial and Marina Hotel.

To allow the TPS to inform its members and voters in the wider Port Lincoln community of the candidate's intentions, the letter respectfully requests a written response by Friday October 14th. Those responses will then be reported to the media, TPS members and the wider community on Eyre Peninsula.

"The TPS has been attempting for more than a decade to encourage the Port Lincoln City Council (PLCC) to seriously consider and then build what we believe is a win-win development for nautical based tourism, recreational boaters and fishers and the Port Lincoln community," TPS Media Coordinator Ian Doyle OAM said.

As a result of a successful negotiated land swap and sale of infrastructure between the Sarin Group and the PLCC, the PLCC is now in control of the lease of much of the proposed community pontoon water in the Marina.

"Despite TPS's sustained efforts, a slim majority in previous Councils has opposed the proposal. We are hopeful the new Council, given it largely controls the location, will give this much needed community development renewed, serious consideration and support," Mr. Doyle said.

A suitable pontoon would not only serve the need for a high-profile, easily accessible mooring for the historically significant MFV Tacoma and other tourism operators, it would also allow the Port Lincoln community easier water access at the Marina.

Previous Council reports indicate that funding for the project could be achieved through the State Boating Facilities Fund. This would require minimal financial support from Council. Instead the pontoon could become a revenue source. Nautical tourism has been a growth industry for the city, but the current Marina infrastructure is aged and inadequate.

"The official opening of the federal, state, local government and community supported Marina at Coffin Bay on October 22nd and the developments at Cowell are

clear demonstrations of what can be achieved when local government supports good ideas. This is a good idea, and its time has come,” Mr. Doyle said.

This is not a revolutionary development. In other parts of the country and around the world, marina pontoons and boardwalks, similar to what the TPS is proposing, provide a focal point for the community and visitors to engage with the local fishing fleet and tourism operators.

“Port Lincoln is home to Australia’s largest fishing fleet and purports to be Australia’s Seafood Capital. This proposed development will support that proposition. We await the responses from the Council and Mayoral candidates with interest,” Mr. Doyle said.

More information:

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Note:

Attached are concepts for the Marina Pontoon and Boardwalk development produced by the TPS and presented to previous Port Lincoln City Councils.

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