

1114 days

and finally work
to start on new
Rapid Bay jetty

MICHAEL OWEN
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE existing Rapid Bay jetty will close today, when construction begins on a \$3.9 million steel pile and concrete replacement.

Construction of the new jetty – a victory for *Advertiser Watch*, which had campaigned for it since June, 2005 – will begin with preparatory work so piles can be erected in the shallow water.

The 240m-long jetty will include solar lighting, stairs and platforms for divers. The existing jetty, about 100km south of Adelaide, is regarded as one of the nation's best for fishing and diving but the lack of public access has stunted tourism.

The 488m-long jetty has been closed to the public from the 120m mark since June, 2003, because of decay and damage.

In September, 2006, the State Government announced a concrete and steel jetty would be built beside the existing structure, but construction has

been frustrated by delays – until today.

A State Government spokesman said the Infrastructure Department and construction firm Bardavcol will continue to work with the community, including Rapid Bay Primary School, to avoid traffic restrictions associated with heavy vehicle use during school opening and closing times.

Signs and fencing have been erected to ensure public safety throughout the construction period, the spokesman said.

Piling is due to begin towards the end of the month and work will be undertaken from 7am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

It is anticipated construction will be completed by the end of the year, weather permitting.

Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty spokesman Antony King said last night the community was pleased that work was finally about to start.

"It's been a long road, but we appreciate the complexity of such a huge undertaking," he said.

WATCH

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
NAME: Patrick Conlon
TITLE: Infrastructure Minister
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DAYS ON WATCH
1114

EMAIL: minister.conlon@sa.gov.sa.gov.au
THE RESPONSE:
The existing jetty will be completely closed from today when construction of the new jetty will begin. It will be finished by the end of the year, weather permitting.

Residents rally to save jetty

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