L114 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.

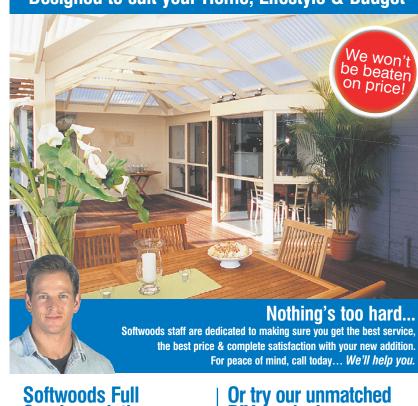
It is anticipated construction will be completed by the end of the year, weather permitting.

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.



Stunning Pergolas & Decks **Designed to suit your Home, Lifestyle & Budget**



Softwoods Full Service solution

No time? Not handy? No problem! We will come to your home, design, plan, handle council & build you a sensational outdoor living area

Ph: 1300 PERGOLA 1300 737 465 Local call cost, except from mobiles

DIY service! Softwoods have 3 DIY superstores

with everything you need. We can design, & fully precut your outdoor structure so that it's ready for assembly using our step by step instructions!

Adelaide's best range of Pergolas, Decking, Picket Fencing, Trellis, Palings, Sleepers, Treated Pine & Laserlite Roofing.



Buy **Direct** & Save

Croydon 8346 1499

Modbury Wright & McIntyre Rds 8396 4044

Lonsdale 8384 5133 Displays all stores Open 7 days

