



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
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THE RESPONSE

Eight expressions of interest have been received by the Government to build a new jetty, next to the existing one at a cost of \$3.9 million.

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Work soon on new Rapid Bay jetty

MICHAEL OWEN
 POLITICAL REPORTER

CONSTRUCTION of a new \$3.9 million jetty at Rapid Bay is to start by November, the State Government says.

The jetty, about 100km south of Adelaide, has been closed to the public since June, 2003, because of decay and storm damage.

Regarded as one of the best fishing and diving sites in the country, the lack of public access has upset residents and stunted tourism.

In a significant victory for local activists and *The Advertiser Watch*, which had campaigned for nearly a year for a decision on the jetty's future, the Government last September announced a new concrete and steel jetty would be built beside the existing structure.

The Government yesterday said the promise to build a new jetty was "on track".

A spokeswoman for Infrastructure Minister Patrick Conlon said seven submissions had been received from contractors interested in building the 300m jetty.

Expressions of interest closed on May 16.

"The next stage of the process will see that list narrowed to two, with the department then working with both contractors to further the concepts and designs," the spokeswoman said.



TOP SPOT: A fisherman on the old jetty site.

One contractor would be selected to build the jetty.

Project plans have been submitted to the Development Assessment Commission for its approval, the spokeswoman said. "That submission includes an independent environmental assessment report, commissioned by the department," she said.

A departmental-proposed action plan said trial piling for the new jetty was expected to begin in October, before the November construction start.

The operational life span of the jetty was expected to be a minimum of 40 years.

The existing jetty was built in 1941 by BHP and now was managed by the Transport De-

partment. The new jetty would be built to the east of the existing jetty and "will provide safe pedestrian access for divers, anglers and tourists to the deep waters of Rapid Bay".

Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty spokesman Antony King said the local community was pleased with progress.

"We, along with the other stakeholders, including the Scuba Divers Federation S.A, have met with the department's infrastructure division to review plans, and provide input," Mr King said.

"While it would have been great to have had the jetty ready for Christmas 2007, we understand there is a process to be followed."