

Eyre Peninsula Tribune

Guest editorial

Peter Treloar - Liberal candidate for Flinders

Striking the right balance

The recent decision to conditionally approve the exporting of iron ore by Centrex Metals from Port Lincoln was of course, no surprise.

Although it took some time and effort, all Centrex needed to do was carefully tick off all the right boxes in the application.

That company now has the job ahead to ensure that it meets the conditions of approval. Critics suggest that it will be a very difficult task, and no doubt dust will be the litmus test.

Mining has the potential to become a major industry on the Eyre Peninsula.

Development of new mine sites will no doubt broaden the base of the local economy, and surely that must be a good thing for local communities here:

However, it should never be to the detriment of existing sustainable industries.

Like many other things in life, it's all about balance.

Now the balance has to be struck between fishing, aquaculture, agriculture and mining.

It will be necessary to resolve the demands of competing land uses without losing sight of the big picture.

It won't be an easy task – particularly with your rights as a resident to be considered – but it is not impossible.

What is disappointing in all of this is the lack of commitment to infrastructure from the Rann Labor Government.

No funds appear to be forthcoming for the establishment of a deep sea port on the east coast of Eyre Peninsula, although at this stage the Government has set a time frame of 10 years to get an alternative site up and running.

Such a port could provide real benefits to the grain industry as well.

The Government has failed to recognise that its role is to provide a framework within which we can all prosper.

Supporting local industries and businesses through the provision of necessary services and basic infrastructure will obviously underpin the success of our communities.

Ultimately, it is the people that matter most – for we are the driving force of our local communities.

TRELOAR 15/10/09