

Received 9 September 2014

From: Port Lincoln Seafood Processors Action Group

Dear Sir/Madam,

I represent an Action Group in Port Lincoln with 16 seafood processing / exporter members.

The group was formed this year to give voice to industries concerns over individual trade waste agreements with SA Water regarding saline trade waste receipt at the Port Lincoln sewerage depot.

Modern seafood processing uses salt water ice slurry to transport fish from boat to factory and in some cases to store live fish on premises prior to export.

We are working constructively with SA Water to survivable outcomes for industry with still a little way to go.

Our concern is the misinformed view that industry is responsible for the bulk of the salinity problem at sewerage depot that may have influenced ECOSA's view in user pays terms.

After risk ranking our members as to the saline usage / discharge volumes to sewer it is apparent that industry saline discharge is seasonal and manageable.

The problem from our view is old sewerage infrastructure laid years ago below the seawater watertable contributes the saline problems found at the towns waste treatment plant. The old pipes are cracked and sea water ingress is constant.

SA Water has acknowledged the problem and has plans to upgrade the plant.

If ECOSA'S charter is a fairer cost responsibility through pricing reform then as it stands industry is expected to carry huge increases in sewer charges for trade waste where the problem is not caused by industry.

South Australia has two fish industries that have the potential to contribute hugely to state incomes. The tuna farming industry could win up to 5000 tons of seafood processing currently processed on Japanese freezer boats to be processed on shore based processing plants. We also have a huge resource of pilchards in this state that in future will be used for human protein currently supplying tuna farms for feed.

The future expansion of these industries needs confidence and affordable state infrastructure to grow. Under the proposed ECOSA recommendations this is unlikely.

Our seafood industries take sustainable natural resources and exchange them for overseas currency. A business that is hugely weighted in favour of this state.

I would be happy to have an interview with you to explore our view further.

Best regards

Steve Moriarty

Chairman, Port Lincoln Seafood Processors Action Group