

# WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

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## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

Focus Groups Report

December 2008

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Prepared by Barbara Chappell

Simply Speaking

*Seanachai*

chappell@aapt.net.au

ABN: 29580357859

POINT LOWLY PROPOSED  
DEVELOPMENTS  
FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

The Whyalla City Council passed a resolution on 19 May 2008 to commence a comprehensive community engagement process on proposed developments at Point Lowly Peninsula. One of the first engagement activities undertaken was the preparation of an information sheet for the community. The second activity was the preparation of a survey to identify the level of knowledge in the community about the developments, the information sources the community found most useful and how they wanted to be engaged. The results of the survey were used to design the format for the Focus Group engagement sessions. Council's main objective for conducting the Focus Groups was to provide opportunities for the community to share their views on the proposed developments to guide Council in determining their approach to State Government on behalf of the community. Council believes that the issue affects the whole community and therefore, should form its views after a careful deliberative process with the community – not in advance of it.

### METHODOLOGY

Notice to the people of Whyalla that the Point Lowly Focus Groups sessions were being held was delivered in a variety of ways including, direct invitation by mail, newspaper and radio advertising, notices in the libraries, Council notice board in the Westland Shopping Centre, Council office and on Council's web site. Invitations to register for a Focus Group session were mailed to everyone on a list of contact details extracted from the survey conducted in August 2008 and from a list of people who attended the State Government run information session held May 2008. Feedback during the Focus Group sessions indicates the list was incomplete. Measures have since been put in place to ensure all contact details submitted are recorded for this project. Three notices about the Focus Groups were placed in the "Whyalla News" on Thursday 20 November 2008 and a notice placed on Council's web site. See **Appendix A**. A total of 73 people registered for the four sessions.

The four Focus Group sessions were held on the following dates:

- Monday 24 November 2008 at the Left Hand Club, 12 Dick Street, Whyalla from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
- Monday 24 November 2008 at the Left Hand Club, 12 Dick Street, Whyalla from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

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- Tuesday 25 November 2008 at the Whyalla Economic Development Board Building, 127 Nicolson Avenue, Whyalla from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
- Tuesday 25 November 2008 at the Whyalla Economic Development Board Building, 127 Nicolson Avenue, Whyalla from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Some suburbs were more heavily represented than others (see **Table 1**). Younger age groups were not well represented in any of the sessions apart from 3 young people who attended the fourth session on Tuesday evening of 25 November. Young people have chosen to participate in the discussions about Point Lowly via Facebook. There is a petition on the web site with 837 names listed with the majority of comments relating to protecting the environment and an absence of commentary on the issues of economic development for Whyalla.

### **The format for the Focus Group sessions included:**

- ✓ Participants listing their expectations for the session on arrival
- ✓ An overview of the proposed developments at Point Lowly by Whyalla City Council CEO Phil Cameron at the Monday sessions and Stewart Payne at the Tuesday sessions.
- ✓ Structured facilitated session based around a series of questions designed to generate discussion on the proposed developments. The aim of the discussions was to assist all involved in gaining insights into the diverse attitudes, perceptions, beliefs and opinions of all participants and to allow everyone to state their needs, ideas and concerns about the proposed developments at Point Lowly.
- ✓ All comments from participants were recorded on a laptop computer and displayed on screen to enable a review and revision of comments to ensure clarity and to provide participants with every opportunity to discuss all they had on their minds and not leave out any issues of importance
- ✓ A summary of how the information from the session will be used to provide information to Council about the direction the community wants the proposed developments at Point Lowly to take was provided at the conclusion of the session
- ✓ Finally, participants were invited to write down any further comments they wanted to have included as part of overall recording of the sessions

The purpose of each of the activities outlined above is explained in the **RESULTS** section of the report.

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## CONCLUSIONS

The collated information throughout this report is a collection of the written and verbal comments from Focus Group participants. The conclusions are based on observations of the data and what took place during the Focus Group discussions. The summary results provide a snap shot (and quick read) of the common and diverse views expressed by participants throughout the sessions. The complete record of the all the expectations the participants had, the comments they made and questions asked during the sessions are listed in **Appendices B, C and D** respectively. The comments need to be read in conjunction with the summary results to get the complete picture of the communities perception on the proposed developments at Point Lowly. The comments from the Focus Group sessions reflect those made in the survey conducted in August 2008 (copies of the survey results are available from Council).

Throughout the collated data there is continuous reference to:

- support for industrial development, but not at Point Lowly
- support for an alternative site (south of Whyalla) for industrial development
- strong concern for the impact of industrial development on Point Lowly
- strong support for economic development for the future of Whyalla
- strong support for the protection of the environment
- strong support for the retention of Point Lowly as a recreation area for the people of Whyalla and tourists
- need for the Whyalla community to present a united front to State Government to ensure their input into the proposed developments at Point Lowly is acknowledged as a serious representation from the community
- call for Council to take a stand on the proposed developments and represent the majority view of the Whyalla community
- call for State Government to consult the Whyalla community on the proposed developments

The level of interest and knowledge about the proposed developments at Point Lowly expressed by the participants was of a very high standard. During the Focus Group sessions it became clear that the majority of the participants were not against industrial development. They were against it at Point Lowly. A small number of participants represented the view that the economic development of Whyalla is being put at risk because of opposition to the proposed Point Lowly developments. It was

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important for these people to be able to present their views as equally as all other participants. One concern about the equity of the process was that people who are strongly in favour of the developments may not have attended the sessions. However, in two of the sessions in particular there was realisation for some participants that the majority of people in Whyalla share a common view in that they do not oppose industrial development. How it is achieved is the main concern and challenge.

Based on the general attitude to the proposed developments by the people who represented the Whyalla community at the Focus Group sessions, they would recognise the concept of a mutual gains approach to the issue. This approach has been researched by two senior academics and it is a credit to the knowledge and creativity of the people of Whyalla that their approach to dealing with the proposed developments strongly reflects the principles of the “mutual gains”<sup>1</sup> approach. The six principles involved in this approach are as follows:

- acknowledge the concerns of the other side
- encourage joint fact finding
- offer contingent commitments to minimise impacts that may occur: consider how to compensate for knowable but unintended impacts, such as, providing education and training for people who do not have the required skills to compensate for low full time employment for people living in Whyalla
- accept responsibility, admit mistakes and share power
- act in a trustworthy manner at all times
- focus on building long term relationships

It is recommended that these principles guide the approach to community engagement with all the key stakeholders including the Council, community, mining companies, business developers and the State Government.

### RESULTS FROM THE FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS

The results have been divided into **4 key** areas:

1. **Location** and **occupations** of participants
2. Participant **expectations** for the Focus Group sessions
3. **Comparison summaries** of discussion responses to the questions posed to the four Focus Groups
4. **Questions raised** during the Focus Group discussions

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<sup>1</sup> The Mutual Gains Approach to Resolving Disputes, Lawrence Susskind and Patrick Field

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## 1. Location of participants

**Table 1** lists the number of participants from each suburb and occupation group represented. This data is included to provide insight into the spread of participation in the Focus Group sessions.

**Table 1**

<b>Suburbs</b>	<b>Monday 24 November 2008 (morning session)</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Monday 24 November 2008 (evening session)</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Tuesday 25 November 2008 (morning session)</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Tuesday 25 November 2008 (evening session)</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b>Whyalla</b>	8 Residents 3 Council Officers	11	1 Elected Member 4 Residents	5	1 Elected Member 4 Residents	5	1 x Business Person	1
<b>Playford</b>	1 Elected Member	1	2 Residents	2	1 Elected Member 1 Business Person 1 Resident	3	7 x Residents	7
<b>Norrie</b>	1 Elected Member 4 Residents	5	2 Residents	2	1 Elected Member 3 Residents	4	1 x Elected Member	1
<b>Stuart</b>	-	0	-	0	-	0	1 x Business Person 14 Residents	15
<b>Jenkins</b>	-	0	-	0	1 Council Officer 1 Resident	2		0
<b>Point Lowly</b>	6 Residents	6	2 Residents	2	1 Resident	1		0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>11</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>24</b>

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## 2. EXPECTATIONS

Participant were asked to share their expectations at the beginning of the Focus Group sessions to: (1) provide a snapshot of individual views up front to identify commonly held and diverse views on the proposed developments; (2) to inform the session facilitator about the expectations of the participants for consideration throughout the session; (3) to enable the facilitator to clarify any misconceptions about the purpose of the session.

A summary of the **common expectations** of all participants at each session is recorded in **Table 2**. A complete record of the expectations recorded during the sessions is listed in **Appendix B**. No two sessions were the same; however there were common expectations that came out of all four sessions.

**Table 2**

Monday 24 November 2008	Monday 24 November 2008	Tuesday 25 November 2008	Tuesday 25 November 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All viewpoints to be taken into account - listen</li> <li>• Value community input</li> <li>• Need to know Councils position on the proposed developments</li> <li>• More information all round on developments, including Defence SA proposals</li> <li>• Want economic growth and protection of environment and recreations space</li> <li>• Want alternatives to development at Point Lowly to be seriously considered</li> <li>• Benefits of desal plant to Whyalla residents</li> <li>• Consultation process concerns – done deal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council actively listening and valuing community input and representing community to State Government-</li> <li>• not to assume the decision is already made</li> <li>• Long and short term views of all positives and negatives of development</li> <li>• Explore options for diverse development that is sustainable and compatible with social and physical environment</li> <li>• Help redirect efforts to move the port south of Whyalla and move the desal plant to a much better location on the west coast (open ocean)</li> <li>• Hear the benefits that</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance view of the Lowly Developments (have all the alternative options been raised).</li> <li>• Ensure Council hears and relays to State Govt a balanced view of public opinion in the interest of Whyalla – more jobs and protect the environment</li> <li>• Council’s approach to the issue to be made known</li> <li>• Not a done deal</li> <li>• Information on the development and how far it has advanced</li> <li>• Any development should be in the best area which will have the least impact on environmental and social</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To gather information regarding pros and cons of the development</li> <li>• To express concerns, hear other people’s view points</li> <li>• Expect nothing as Govt has made up its mind</li> <li>• Make the whole process clearer in terms of getting our voices to be heard in respect to objections to development at Point Lowly.</li> <li>• Not against industry, just against it being at such an environmentally fragile location with a huge recreational attendance from both locals and tourists alike</li> <li>• To give some direction to</li> </ul>

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	<p>industrialisation of the Point Lowly Peninsula will bring to Whyalla, its community and the region</p>	<p>future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspects of cuttlefish breeding and hatching to be fully covered</li> </ul>	<p>Council so they will act with speed and strength to effect the process as decided by the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof that all options have been really considered and not just cheapest option</li> <li>• Long term view 10 – 20 years</li> <li>• Effects of desal on Cuttlefish safety along with beauty and serenity of Point Lowly</li> <li>• Environmental effects – tourist attractions will be gone, future generations deserve a chance to experience the wonders of Point Lowly</li> </ul>
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### General Summary

Common expectations included; wanting to listen to all viewpoints, more information on the proposed developments and whether long and short term views have been considered, finding out about Councils approach to the proposed developments and how they might represent the community to State Government, the developments are a “done deal”, exploration of all options for development, and a balanced approach to economic growth and environmental protection.

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### 3. COMPARISON SUMMARIES

A summary of the responses to the questions posed to the Focus Groups are presented in **Tables 3 to 6** to provide comparisons between areas of commonality and diversity. Key points have been captured to inform Councils approach to the proposed development of Point Lowly Peninsula and to facilitate community understanding of the diverse viewpoints. The complete record of the comments recorded is listed in **Appendix C**. Questions raised during the sessions have been collated as **Appendix D** and will be sent to the Point Lowly Taskforce for action.

#### Question 1- What do you know or what have you heard about or are concerned about the proposed developments at Point Lowly Peninsula?

**Table 3**

Monday 24 November 2008 Morning session	Monday 24 November 2008 Evening session	Tuesday 25 November 2008 Morning session	Tuesday 25 November 2008 Evening session
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considerable discussion on the proposed number of mines (30) for the region and the impact on transport corridors through Whyalla (by –pass) and general capacity of port</li> <li>• That the State Government has to have the port to get royalties. This would be lost if it was transported through Darwin.</li> <li>• Government and industry to seriously look at an ‘optional’ port (in the vicinity of Whyalla)?</li> <li>• Develop one super port on the peninsula between Lincoln and Whyalla?</li> <li>• All information from sessions to go to all government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considerable discussion on the State Governments approach to the process, ie. it’s a done deal</li> <li>• Conflicting information on the credibility of results of the Billiton EIS</li> <li>• Range of questions asked about the transportation of ore</li> <li>• Acceptance of a 25 year old agenda</li> <li>• No deals done - Council resolved to write to Provincial Cities and EPLGA to gather support for Council to lobby the State Government to get a percentage of royalties.</li> <li>• Communities should be entitled to a slice of the mining royalties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considerable discussion about the unique character of Point Lowly, the desire for economic development and protection of the environment</li> <li>• Long term strategic plan to ensure a balance between quality of life/business/economic growth/recreation to secure better infrastructure and attract people to live and work in Whyalla</li> <li>• Use past experiences so the same mistakes are not made, eg. growing Santos footprint /Cultana expansion</li> <li>• Port Bonython will not be a strategically viable port in the long term.</li> <li>• State Government process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considerable discussion about access to Point Lowly.</li> <li>• Loss of a very significant beach and impact of industrial development on Cuttlefish and Tourism at Point Lowly</li> <li>• Exclusions off and on the water (eg. Santos Jetty) – Aboriginal heritage site in exclusion zone</li> <li>• Santos has provided employment to the people of Whyalla</li> <li>• Council uses Point Lowly for tourism</li> <li>• Learn from past history</li> <li>• No strategic approach to this development.</li> <li>• What is the real economic benefit for the proposed</li> </ul>

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<p>departments – eg Tourism, Infrastructure etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whyalla is being ignored at the expense of SA – no benefits to Whyalla.</li> <li>• Nothing set in stone yet</li> <li>• Desalination Plant and potential impacts on the environment discussed</li> </ul>		<p>entirely top down – regional communities left to react to a decision making process that has already commenced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very little to offer the ordinary people for recreational use in the area.</li> <li>• Concern that alternative ports have not been looked at sufficiently</li> <li>• Concern that opposition to development will put economic development at risk</li> </ul>	<p>development? If we are willing to trade off something what is the trade off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are we giving up Point Lowly to fund projects outside the region?</li> <li>• Are we risking economic development if we oppose the industrial development</li> <li>• If the proposed port goes down South it may be a better option, but Whyalla will not get the benefits if the port goes a long way down South</li> </ul>
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### GENERAL SUMMARY:

<b>Common issues</b>	<b>Issues of diversity</b>
<p>Alternative options for a port to be looked at, a long term strategic plan is needed to plan for the future and ensure the same mistakes from the past are not repeated, support for economic development, support for protection of the environment and for the State Government to engage with the Whyalla community on the proposed developments</p>	<p>Although the 4 groups shared common ideas about the proposed developments each group tended to have distinct priorities for discussion such as truck transportation through Whyalla, credibility of EIS research, past history of industrial development and access for locals and tourists to Point Lowly</p>

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### Question 2 - What might what we have discussed mean for you?

**Table 4**

Monday 24 November 2008	Monday 24 November 2008	Tuesday 25 November 2008	Tuesday 25 November 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representation – Council needs to let Government and people know that they are concerned.</li> <li>• Need and numbers support from the people of Whyalla to ensure concerns and opinions are valued.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus of discussion in this group was on an alternative site for the proposed developments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An obligation regarding the cuttlefish aggregation to do all you can to protect it.</li> <li>• Some view of the long term issues attached to the Lowly Peninsula – let’s have both.</li> <li>• Need to look at community development, how the mines/facilities are set up in regards to accommodation – need to be integrating the ‘mining community’ into the Whyalla community.</li> <li>• Embed as much economic, recreational, social, health, education, transport, sport, tourism activity within the community – to encourage people to live and stay in Whyalla.</li> <li>• Don’t want Whyalla to end up as a ghost town when mining is finished - what are we going to leave behind for future generations - how can we find a balance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are we giving up a local amenity/lifestyle/heritage to industry?</li> <li>• We pay all the costs and industry get all the benefits – Whyalla as a dumping ground</li> <li>• Do we have a choice between Pt Lowly and somewhere else?</li> <li>• What is the long term loss for the short term gain?</li> <li>• Want what economic progress/development can give this city– but needs to occur in the right way.</li> <li>• Tourism – locals proud of Point Lowly – somewhere to take visitors to</li> <li>• Lack of consultation by the State Government – devalues us</li> <li>• In one generation the beach that was very popular has been lost to the community.</li> <li>• Every industry in Whyalla has difficulty in attracting people to work.</li> <li>• Threat to people’s property investments.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed army spread around Whyalla will take away areas that are now being used for recreational space. This with Point Lowly will reduce the areas that Whyalla use for this purpose.</li> <li>• There is nothing else around Whyalla that can be used for recreational space</li> </ul>
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**General summary:**

<b>Common issues</b>	<b>Issues of diversity</b>
Support from everyone in the community to deal with the issues, State Government to value local community views, focus on community development to ensure the long term sustainability of the Whyalla community.	The community may be overlooking the importance of economic development for Whyalla and the advantages it can bring. People against industrial development at Point Lowly are not against economic development for Whyalla.

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## Question 3

What do you think needs to happen?

Table 5

Monday 24 November 2008	Monday 24 November 2008	Tuesday 25 November 2008	Tuesday 25 November 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People would like to hear the thoughts of Council and Elected Members about their concerns for the community</li> <li>• More detailed information in regards to the proposed developments and effects on quality of life in Whyalla and the Gulf.</li> <li>• A range of questions to be answered to identify the impacts of each of the proposals on Point Lowly and Whyalla</li> <li>• An appreciation from outside organisations as to the importance of Point Lowly to Whyalla</li> <li>• Needs to be a genuine report on costings etc on the port South of Whyalla as an alternative.</li> <li>• Want to have the results of the EIS for public consultation before development commences</li> <li>• A good outcome for the community from the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting what we have and still promote an alternate port.</li> <li>• Would like the Stony Point Environment Consultative Group be reconvened</li> <li>• People (in authority, those proposing developments) need to acknowledge that what is being proposed out there is a highly compromised port with associated risks.</li> <li>• EIS of the Southern site – need to look at all aspects from mine through to transport to ship site.</li> <li>• Council to ask the State Government through the Environment, Resources and Development Committee of Parliament to come and meet the people of Whyalla and hold an enquiry.</li> <li>• State Government to conduct an independent in-depth study of the Southern and Northern port options looking at the long term</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Government needs to look at /reassess its process in engaging community(s)</li> <li>• Northern Spencer Gulf Resource Processing Strategy used as an engagement model and to include communities from Port Lincoln thru to Whyalla (Economic Development Boards etc) to go thru a decision-making process.</li> <li>• This process to take into account the social, economic, environmental, recreational, indigenous amenity of the area.</li> <li>• Community apathy needs to be addressed – spark the passion.</li> <li>• Identifying the ways that different groups (eg. schools and young people) need to be involved within the community - (eg. using Information Technology) need interactive social network sites.</li> <li>• Council should take</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show the advantages and disadvantages.</li> <li>• Council takes on board thoughts and opinions of local Action Group– and shows the positives and negatives.</li> <li>• Council to steer/influence/facilitate the Government into looking at an alternative site (South).</li> <li>• Split the refinery industry(s) into two separate projects – refinery could stay at Point Lowly and the tank farm could be located at the Cultana Industrial Estate.</li> <li>• Desal plant – best place to be on the West Coast (Elliston).</li> <li>• Most advanced technology to be used in the running of the desalination plant.</li> <li>• In all decisions - can we get the best outcome/plant and not the cheapest! At least the two best options not the only option.</li> <li>• Process that the Council/SA Water used for the recycled</li> </ul>

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<p>information collated from these focus groups.</p>	<p>economic impacts to enable a balanced assessment of the two sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding the fuel facility and potential refinery consideration to moving the tank farms to the Cultana Industrial area to take advantage of existing infrastructure at that location</li> <li>• Desal plant should run on 100% renewable energy</li> </ul>	<p>responsibility for funneling a cohesive community view into a cogent plan to influence the State Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All alternative options for developments are looked at very seriously and the results and/or process are followed through with consultation and input with the stakeholders (everyone in community, Local Government, people of knowledge)</li> </ul>	<p>water – terms of looking into the options – was good for the community. An outcome that was good for the whole of community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could still have desal plant producing 95% potable water at point lowly a second stage desal module located point lowly to produce potable water for the Eyre Peninsula and another module at Roxby Downs to produce potable water for the residents.</li> <li>• Further follow up focus groups (open community engagement groups) where developers/researchers/scientists can give their proposals to the community.</li> <li>• Council could take advantage of the current economic turmoil – there is less need for these projects to be rushed through.</li> <li>• Government to check into the financial sustainability of the developers – are they (the developers) always going to take the cheap option because it is not viable for them to work other ways.</li> <li>• Council should be talking to Flinders Ports Consortium (all</li> </ul>
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			<p>of the various stakeholders).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power of the community</li> <li>• Letters to ministers – they are obliged to answer letters.</li> <li>• Media coverage – someone with experience that knows how to do it.</li> <li>• Proposal was sent to separate mining companies – re invite to attend a meeting for a presentation re alternate site in December 08.</li> </ul> <p>Southern Port alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opens access to Eyre Peninsula</li> <li>• Potential Grain Terminal (access for other commodities)</li> <li>• Reduces road traffic through Whyalla</li> <li>• Lower cost option for the Eyre Peninsula miners</li> <li>• Close to existing largest iron ore mine in SA (Onesteel)</li> <li>• Large area of flat land which is easily developed</li> <li>• Very large area of deep water – no dredging required – easy channel</li> <li>• Greenfield Site:</li> <li>• No restrictions on development</li> <li>• No hazardous neighbours</li> </ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No ordnance clearance required</li> <li>• No existing tourist activity</li> <li>• No existing recreational activity</li> <li>• Close access to deep water (20 metres)</li> <li>• Could be developed into combined export facility for Eyre Peninsula and North of SA eliminating the need for new or upgraded ports at Port Lincoln, Arno Bay, Pt Lowly</li> <li>• Minimal impact on visible amenity</li> <li>• Eliminates the need for a Whyalla by-pass to allow Eyre Peninsula access to a port</li> </ul>
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**General summary:**

<b>Common issues</b>	<b>Issues of diversity</b>
Council to support the local community to put their case forward to State Government for an alternative port, community to come together to deal with the issues, improved consultation with the Whyalla community.	There were a range of suggestions as to how the Council, State Government and the community need to be involved to address the development issues. There were suggestions for long range research and short range action plans to address the issues

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## What would you like not to happen?

**Table 6**

Monday 24 November 2008	Monday 24 November 2008	Tuesday 25 November 2008	Tuesday 25 November 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No brine added to the Gulf.</li> <li>• Whole concept is wrong – geology of the area, flora and fauna, marine etc has been ignored – short sighted on behalf of Government to use this area.</li> <li>• Wouldn't want them to discard the alternative developments that are better for the Whyalla community.</li> <li>• Benefits of developing and of not developing not being discussed.</li> <li>• Young people not represented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffer Zone (Public Exclusion Zone) around the proposed jetty – diving area will be compromised.</li> <li>• If we stuff up Point Lowly we have to go 100 kms to go to a decent beach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't want Point Lowly industrialised</li> <li>• Alternatives ignored</li> <li>• Inadequate consultation with the community</li> <li>• Don't miss out on the opportunity – we want both</li> <li>• Don't want to lose the one thing that is accessible from home (Point Lowly)</li> <li>• Don't want to lose a unique world event (Cuttlefish)</li> <li>• Don't want Council/all levels of Government to hold onto information that can be provided to the community</li> <li>• Don't want to lose the potential for eco tourism and coastal living</li> <li>• Don't want the current government view that 'they own the land and that this will be good for you mentality'</li> <li>• Need to get Cr Eddie Hughes' motion off the table – and get the area rezoned.</li> <li>• Need a far more comprehensive Government approach for community consultation.</li> </ul>	<p>No comments recorded under this heading for this group</p>

July 08

# POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

## General summary:

<b>Common issues</b>	<b>Issues of diversity</b>
Want effective consultation on the proposed developments, do not want to lose unique environment/recreation area, do not want to lose opportunities for economic development,	Some groups recognised the lack of representation from young people in the community. A few young people attended the session on Tuesday evening and provided valuable contributions

# POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

## APPENDIX A – Advertising notices placed in the Whyalla News on Thursday 20 November 2008

### Council to hold focus groups

The Whyalla City Council is holding focus groups to provide local residents with information about the Point Lowly developments.

There are a number of developments proposed for the area, including a desalination plant to service the Olympic Dam expansion, a deep water export jetty and a fuel refinery and tank farm.

The groups will be involved in the direction the council takes on the issue.

"It will influence that," council chief executive Phil Cameron said.

"We want to solicit people's thoughts and opinions to enable council to get some feedback about thoughts at Point Lowly.

"We're hoping people from either side of the camp turn out to the focus groups.

"There may be people with one or two issues, some may be against the whole thing and some people might be for it, so it's to see what might be ticking over in people's heads."

The focus group meetings will be facilitated by consultant Barbara Chapell who has been working with council's internal working party in relation to Point Lowly.

The meetings will be held on Monday November 24 at the Left Hand Club and on Tuesday, November 25 at Whyalla Economic Development Board.

Participants must register through the council.

Contact Jane Hayward on 8640 3422 for more details.



**Focus:** Council chief executive Phil Cameron (left) is pictured here with Deputy Mayor Eddie Hughes at Point Lowly during an excursion by council's Point Lowly task force.



CITY OF WHYALLA

20/11/08 8.33  
**FOCUS GROUPS**  
**POINT LOWLY PENINSULA DEVELOPMENTS**

Are **YOU** interested in participating in a **FOCUS GROUP** re Point Lowly Peninsula developments?

For information contact Jane Hayward, Whyalla City Council on 8640 3422 or email [jane.hayward@whyalla.sa.gov.au](mailto:jane.hayward@whyalla.sa.gov.au)

**Registration for participation is essential.**

### Monday and Tuesday

#### Point Lowly focus groups

The Whyalla City Council invites everyone to attend facilitated focus groups on the proposed Point Lowly developments. The focus groups will allow residents to gain access to information the proposed developments, and provide input into the future direction of industrial and recreational development in Whyalla. Sessions will be held on Monday and Tuesday, November 24 and 25, at 10am until 12.30pm and 7pm until 9.30pm. On Monday, 24 at the Left Hand Club on Dick Street, and on Tuesday, 25 at WEDB meeting room on Nicolson Avenue, Whyalla. For more information call Jane Hayward on 8640 3422.

# POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

## APPENDIX B - EXPECTATIONS

The information in **Appendix B** is a record of all the expectations of the participants who attended the Focus Group sessions.

### Focus Group – Monday morning 24 November 2008

- To listen and try to gauge the true facts instead of conflicting facts given to us over the last few months
- Information about the planning/deadline process
- Decision taken by Council with regard to the issue
- More in-depth information on the proposal
- To be respected as I respect others for their views
- The truth on Councils stand on this development and why they won't stand up for Whyalla
- Listening to others points of view
- Get some action going to let the Government know that Whyalla community cares
- That Whyalla residents do want economic growth etc. but not at the expense of the environment
- Information on what is going to be put out there and how much is negotiable or is it already cut and dried
- To find out how much notice will be taken of our concerns, as well as the published concerns of recognised academics, particularly regarding the desalination plant
- Honest information presented as to proposed developments and timetables
- Focus group sessions not a waste of time because everything is already cut and dried as was the Santos development
- To get correct knowledge of industrial developments proposed for Point Lowly
- Voice concerns for developments and the effects they will have on the environment
- To sort out what and where everyone is headed in respect to the future of Point Lowly eg. Council, business and community
- A better knowledge of exactly what is happening and where it is at present
- Accurate information
- Desal plant – fresh drinking water - will we get additional supplies
- Questions answered if possible
- No desalination plant
- Discover community opinion
- State Government stand/justification for development
- Concerns re: consultation processes/definition
- Will current economic issues effect proposal
- What effect if any will Defence SA project have on the region
- What ever happened to wind generation project
- Better understanding of all issues
- Understanding of community values of importance and measures to ensure these are respected as far as practicable
- Let us know what happens to Point Lowly
- A greater awareness of the Whyalla community of what is being proposed and what will be lost
- Greater awareness of the alternatives that could satisfy the needs of all without destroying the recreational and tourist potential of Point Lowly

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- To listen and learn what this meeting has to offer the residents of Whyalla
- To see why the government and industries want to use our only recreational area
- To find out more information on this topic and to try and get Council members to stop sitting on their hands
- To have a better idea of other people's feelings and concerns

### **Focus Group – Monday evening 24 November 2008**

- Ensure Council are actively listening to the input from the community and not to assume the decision is already made
- Information assistance on how to promote the positives of Point Lowly as it is and the liability to the people of Whyalla and the environment if the industrialisation of this area goes ahead
- Help in presentation and support of a deep sea port south of Whyalla
- Reinforce need to explore options for diverse development that is sustainable and compatible with social and physical environment
- Promote northern coastline for clean and green enterprise
- Promote southern coastline where appropriate for "grey" enterprises and export port
- Frank discussion and no hidden agenda
- Positive consideration for all opinions
- To hear residents views in relation to the proposed developments on Point Lowly Peninsula
- Find out why Council has "no position"
- Find out why Point Lowly should be sacrificed
- Understanding of concerns and opportunities created by Point Lowly proposal
- Understanding of community's values and what is important to be retained
- Increase awareness of shortfalls of Point Lowly Peninsula for future heavy industry
- Enforce other to look at long term in lieu of short term
- Any development (tourism, aquaculture, recreation, recreational and commercial fishing, etc. to be sustainable and compatible with current activities without risk to those activities
- Things to do
- Information
- Some direction as to what to do to help prevent the industrialisation of Point Lowly
- Information regarding progress and reports on progress – possible progress stoppers or issues
- Help redirect efforts to move the port south of Whyalla and move the desal plant to a much better location on the west coast (open ocean)
- Commitment from Council that they will actively and aggressively represent locals once an informed decision (yes or no) has been made or else this is a waste of time
- How is community opinion being canvassed (measured) – surveys so far have not asked pertinent questions
- State Government versus Whyalla Council. How do they interact? Do we as the Whyalla community "have a say" through the Council. Or is the State Government merely relaying information to us (the community) via the Council?

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Listen to constructive concerns of the community regarding any industrialisation of the Point Lowly Peninsula
- Hear the benefits that industrialisation of the Point Lowly Peninsula will bring to Whyalla, its community and the region

### **Focus Group – Tuesday morning 25 November 2008**

- Balance view of the Lowly Developments (have all the alternative options been raised).
- Understanding on how to engage Local Community/Local Govt to go forward as a cohesive committed group on Lowly development issue (the opposition being the Govt – bad guys)
- Hope to get some feedback on how our Council feels over the issue and on a way forward for the preservation of the Lowly Peninsula
- Balanced view on developments
- More information on developments
- Information on the development and how far it has advanced
- Environmental concerns and protection
- Jobs against environment
- Hear public opinion – the whole community
- Ensure Council hears and relays to Govt a holistic view of public opinion in the interest of Whyalla
- To hear both sides and people's opinion and receive more information
- To ensure project goes ahead for the future of Whyalla, create more jobs.
- Any development should be in the best area which will have the least impact on environmental and social future
- Hope to get some feedback on how our Council feels over this issue and on a way forward for the preservation of Point Lowly Peninsula
- Speak honestly about all the ramifications of the industrialization of Point Lowly Peninsula
- Seriously consider alternative sites
- Understand impact on the coast line and potential changes to access for the coast road
- Aspects of cuttlefish breeding and hatching fully covered
- Why are developments so scattered?
- Work through issues, states, lack of community engagement, alternatives to current proposals
- Devaluing of environment and amenity values by the state government
- To obtain an unbiased/balanced feel of local people to the proposed development
- Be involved in a balanced process as concerned the process has been hijacked
- To be informed about the current situation
- To go away thinking that it is not a "done deal" to proceed with the industrialization of Lowly Peninsula
- To hear both sides and peoples opinion and receive more information
- To ensure project goes ahead for the future of Whyalla, create more jobs
- Council to take some leadership on behalf of the community

### **Focus Group – Tuesday evening 25 November 2008**

- Expect nothing as Govt has made up its mind

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Make the whole process clearer in terms of getting our voices to be heard in respect to objections to development at Point Lowly. Not against industry, just against it being at such an environmentally fragile location with a huge recreational attendance from both locals and tourists alike
- How to make the State Government transparent in their dealings with these developers
- Want to make sure the State Government do not allow the cheapest option to the developers because that's what the developers want at the expense of the community
- That the report represent the strength of support for an alternative to Point Lowly
- That the Council act with speed and strength to effect the process as decided by the community
- Hear and listen
- To gather information regarding pros and cons of the development
- To express my concerns re proposed developments including desal plant at Point Lowly
- To hear other people's view points
- To give some direction to Council
- Come to consensus for this group for a plan of action from here
- If consensus is not possible, produce a list of issues to be dealt with and how.
- Real information – not “hype”. Good and bad outcomes for environment recreation amenities etc
- Proof that all options have been really considered and not just cheapest option
- Get a firm understanding of Councils position and how they intend to move forward with the public of Whyalla's expectations
- Council commitment all information is “put on the table”
- To get the opportunity to express my opinions and concerns and be listened to and taken seriously
- To learn more about the proposed development and its impact (positive and negative) on the Whyalla community
- Yes to oil refinery (tank farm)
- Deep sea port to be part of One Steel area. If possible – harbour dredging
- Definite no to desalination plant at Point Lowly (move further south)
- To try see how the future of Point Lowly and surrounding areas may be impacted by the proposed developments
- To gauge what the community thinks about the proposed developments
- Have a true, honest view of future expectations of the port. If other sites have actually been looked at by the co-ops.
- To find out if this is just a process or are our views going to count for anything
- A much broader view of this issue. At the moment the focus is on Point Lowly. But what will produce the best results for the community and the participating companies in the long run ie. 10 – 20 years
- Questions about the desal plant answered. Cuttlefish safety is my main concern, along with beauty and serenity of Point Lowly

July 08

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Environmental effects – tourist attractions will be gone, future generations deserve a chance to experience the wonders of Point Lowly (will they get the chance?)
- What development proposals are actually before Council
- What other sites are being looked at for development

# POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

## APPENDIX C - RECORDED COMMENTS

The information in this section is a record of the comments made during the Focus Group sessions.

### Question 1- What do you know or what have you heard about or are concerned about the proposed developments at Point Lowly Peninsula?

#### Focus Group – Monday morning 24 November 2008

- That the State Government has to have the port to get royalties from the port. This would be lost if it was transported through Darwin.
- Proposed mines in the vicinity of the region – rail transport does not have the capacity to rail the ore to Darwin. Ore trains are very long – 4 and 10 million tones through port facility – rail network would have the capacity.
- If information regarding the proposed 30 mines is available – can we find out this info from the State Government?
- Government and industry seriously look at an ‘optional’ port (in the vicinity of Whyalla)?
- Cheaper for mines to use this ‘optional’ port rather than truck ore through Whyalla.
- Bulk commodity storage on the peninsula does not look big enough for the proposed 30 mines etc.
- Why not develop one super port on the peninsula between Lincoln and Whyalla?
- Who do we put these questions to? Who is going to action these questions? Questions – (best way forward) – all information is collated forums, through Council – Council’s Point Lowly task force, senior officers etc and then forwarded to the Department of Cabinet - State Government.
- Send information to all government departments – eg Tourism, Infrastructure etc.
- Truck transport (tonnage – 7 to 13 million tonne) down Playford Avenue – (because it cannot be railed) – who is going to deal with this? Significant point that should be made to the State Government – push for the by-pass.
- Plan for by-pass but it is long term.  
Whyalla is being ignored at the expense of SA – no benefits to Whyalla. Nothing set in stone – Centrex (biggest organisation) – looking to ship out from Tumbay Bay – if they do need to come thru Whyalla there will be a by-pass.
- Desalination Plant – re ‘dodge tide’ (in the top of the gulf) how do they know that salinity levels won’t change the impact on marine life? – refer to published scientific references to this.
- Is there an option on the dodge tide that the plant can be shut down?
- What will happen to BHP if/when damage is done – will they stop producing the water or will they keep producing?
- Is the Desal Plant part of an indenture which is part of BHP Billiton’s project (Olympic Dam)? Subject to an Environmental Impact Statement? What would happen to the brine – does it have to go into the sea?
- Too much salt being developed to be left on land – from BHP Billiton open meeting. No salt industry that can handle the quantity of salt.
- Are they going to produce drinkable water from the Desal Plant?  
BHP Billiton has told Council – first pass water is in the World Health Standards for drinkable water. Government’s first intention to have potable water – they have changed their mind ... Council have written to State Government re this. Government have changed their stance – it is their call (not BHP Billiton’s).

# POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- What are the State Governments plans – what do they look like? - the one on the State Government's pamphlet is Council's plan.

## Focus Group – Monday evening 24 November 2008

- It's a done deal – the general public's perception is that we are not going to change the Government
- (we don't own the land – the Government owns the land)
- Conflicting information – Billiton EIS being favourable in relation to Cuttlefish breeding – some Scientists (Adelaide Uni) say it is detrimental to the Cuttlefish breeding.
- Billiton Scientists (Melbourne Uni) – one wonders – Unis are political institutions?
- What is the truth?
- The credibility of the information source to BHP Billiton?
- Is Billiton going to use the jetty to transport copper and zinc concentrate? And what might be the implications if there is a spillage?
- Presentation by Robert Jenkins stating that copper concentrate would not be transported from the jetty,
- Ore would be transported by covered conveyors etc.
- Council asked the question to BHP Billiton – they are going to rail their concentrate to the port of Darwin – currently consulting with Alice Springs. Going to be containerized.
- What controls do we have on what is transported from the jetty?
- What possible ores of any are to be transported from the jetty? Can we have a guarantee that no product that is detrimental to the marine environment is transported from the jetty?
- Ship traffic – what effect the increase in ship traffic (ballast water etc) will have on the gulf?
- How deep is the water out there? What is the draft of these cape sized ships? Where are we going to be able to sail (recreational uses) (ship traffic)?
- Concerns in increased potential for oil spills.
- Distillate from the refinery – major problems if there is a major spill?
- Who might pay for the cost of a major spill?
- Accepting an agenda which has been given to us for 25 years.
- We have heard that this is going ahead and Council have already been told what \$/tonnage they are going to get.
- Council resolution – write to Provincial Cities and EPLGA to gather support for Council to lobby the State Government to get a percentage of the royalties.
- No other deals done. Communities should be entitled to a slice of the mining royalties.
- If the EIS – (for all proposed developments) is not favourable will it still go ahead?
- No chance for the community to say yes or no? ... feel good exercise...(information sessions only) ..

## Focus Group – Tuesday morning 25 November 2008

- It is beautiful and unique – if industrial goes ahead it will change it dramatically.
- Tidal flow isn't sufficient to clear the area of any impurities.
- Santos originally said they would have a smaller footprint – as they developed it got bigger - the State Govt had very little communication with the community and it was a done deal.

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Look at what has happened in the past and use some of this so we don't make the same mistakes.
- Process is being driven by one company – Western Plains Resources – process only commenced when discussions were cut off by OneSteel with WPR (denied opportunity to use OneSteel port). (WPR Annual General Report – information from this states the above).
- If people were to read comments by Bob Duffin (WPR) there is an option at OneSteel for the export of iron ore.
- OneSteel is already barging iron ore out to the cape sized vessels in the gulf.
- Port Bonython will not be a strategically viable port in the long term.
- State Government process entirely top down – regional communities left to react to a decision making process that has already commenced.
- This group is not looking at the economic viability of Whyalla in the future – need to take this into consideration (and remember the years of past). City needs to move forward.
- Fine to have development but probably in a different location – a location which is more suitable – what happens if an environmental disaster happens?
- Better tidal flows (down South) more acceptable to the community.
- Community is very pro development – issue with this development is the distinct lack of information and communication from the State Government to the community.
- State Government (State Government land and project) they need to be out there driving the community consultation processes.
- Elements within this Government that have indicated that there is more than iron ore to be shipped out of this port.
- Good community consultation – you can drown in facts....
- The whole thing hinges on balance – quality of life/business/short term focus but a long term strategic plan
- Look at alternatives that are available
- Someone needs to take leadership to get the whole thing to be looked at in a balanced way
- Concerned it is a knee jerk reaction that there has not been a business like view on the impacts on this city in the long term – short term vs long term strategic fix.
- Where is the industry going to get the water from – to operate these industries? Water crisis ...
- BHP EIS not due out till next year – so many unknowns ... arguing over unknowns – same for the jetty – how is this going to impact on the environment – how is it going to be designed? Are we still going to have access to the coast road?
- Business potential – this City is very reliant on OneSteel – it would be a good thing to have another opportunity for more than one industry to draw incomes from – (diversity in the income stream).
- Leaving our kids a decent world.
- If this does go ahead – significant infrastructure will be built – it will become the industrial hub. Everything that needs to come to Whyalla would be able to be located in this area.
- Resist in losing recreation area for the future.
- Very little to offer the ordinary people for recreational use in the area.
- That there is a land grab in PL and this will happen with new developments – exclusion zones etc. They will grab more than they really need. Access to areas.
- Concern that alternative ports have not been looked at sufficiently.

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Because of the current economic downturn we need to be careful that we don't 'drop the rage'.
- Loss of major land area in regards to the Defence Department – Cultana expansion. Diminish our economic strength rather than enhancing it.
- (Has the potential of keeping people in jobs more difficult. Recreational needs to being met – people move on to something better). Loss of amenities.
- Want to keep workers here – lifestyle needs to encourage people to stay here.
- Have not developed the potential of Point Lowly.

### Focus Group – Tuesday evening 25 November 2008

- Point Lowly is accessible – because there is a Santos – bitumen road.
- It was accessible before the bitumen road.
- Rat Bags out there because of the bitumen road – positives about the access as well as negatives.
- No positives about the access out there.
- Lost access to Weeroona Bay.
- Lost access and the natural beauty that was there – now it seen as an opening and it is being ruined by Industry.
- Hate looking at the ugly Santos site.
- Loss of a very significant beach (best swimming beach) - any further development has the opportunity to further halt access to area
- Exclusions off and on the water (Santos Jetty) – more exclusion zones on the water
- You don't have to have an exclusion zone around a jetty.
- Why can't the proposed jetty have a dual use?
- Free trade agreement – all ports have to be secured? How will the public have access to the jetty if this is so?
- How are they going to build the proposed jetty and not contradict Aboriginal Heritage issues?
- Aboriginal heritage site in exclusion zone – don't want that to happen again
- Use by date for Santos? No good will between industry and community
- Santos has provided employment to the people of Whyalla
- Council uses Point Lowly for tourism
- What is the next best place in this whole process and what would be the alternate costs? How do we make a wise decision? No strategic approach to this development.
- We don't have any alternatives – is there a better option for this development?
- No power – big negative
- Paying taxes on greenhouse – desalination plant run by alternate energy – start a fresh – before hooking into the power line.
- How popular the area is – lighthouse cottages etc – always turning people away – very popular
- It is a very popular destination for caravans, tourist homes etc.
- Statistics are available for numbers for the light house cottages (Uniting Church)
- If there is no Point Lowly would the Government say Whyalla would not get a port at all?
- Better option for industry down South – too dear? Are we under devaluating Point Lowly over development down South?
- Tourism over industry?

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Development is purely driven by costs for a short term
- Tourism – 3 operators who could provide quantifiable data.
- Tourists visiting want to dive (cuttlefish) (over anywhere in Australia) in Whyalla.
- Cuttlefish need rock shelf structures to breed.... Let's not assume that any structure built into the gulf near the cuttlefish breeding ground may be adverse to the cuttlefish breeding.
- Seawall marine cuttlefish are a different species.
- Jetty out there has not had a detrimental effect on the cuttlefish.
- No fugitive dust comes off the Santos jetty.
- What is the real economic benefit for the proposed development? If we are willing to trade off something what is the trade off?
- Are we giving up Point Lowly to fund projects outside the region?
- If the proposed port goes down South it may be a better option.
- If the port is down South we get less road traffic through Whyalla.
- No consideration of opening up the Eyre Peninsula – no consideration of opening up a by-pass.
- Some coating on the Santos jetty affected the periwinkles and it has taken some time for the crustaceans to come back.
- Learning from history that we don't make the same mistakes.
- Lost access and the natural beauty that was there – now it seen as an opening and it is being ruined by Industry
- Business in Whyalla will not get the benefits if the port goes a long way down South
- Nothing has been said about how vehicles are coming into the sheds at the proposed developments at Lowly etc. red dust issues attached?
- How will the red dust from the road vehicles be combated?
- Is there was to be a by-pass who is paying for it?
- Assurances by the State Government that they will not do to Whyalla what they have done Kakatha Mula nation (SA/WA board) – open slather?
- Esperance – exporting iron ore .. loss of bird species
- What assurances by the Government are we going to be given that only iron ore is being transported out from the proposed jetty?
- How far out into the Gulf will the desalination brine be put out into the gulf?
- Needs to be dispersed a lot further out into the gulf.
- Need to have an assurance that this needs to be dispersed a lot further out into the gulf.
- Does the dispersion pipe (from the Desal Plant) form a barrier to the cuttlefish migration?
- The independence of the EIS – how much energy/credibility is going into the EIS? Needs to be independently funded - to be paid by Council, State and Industry.
- Are there any other chemicals added to the water to be dispersed from the desal plant that may be dangerous to the environment.

### **Question 2 - What might what we have discussed mean for you?**

#### **Focus Group – Monday morning 24 November 2008**

- Not going anywhere – if we cannot get Council or people that this affects – concerns going nowhere – opinions need to be valued (in a big group).
- Representation – Council needs to let Government and people know that they are concerned. Support to put an end to this

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Need and numbers support from the people of Whyalla.
- How do you want to find out about community engagement activities?
- To promote community engagement processes where people gather eg outside the normal areas of Council - ... clubs, pubs etc.

### **Focus Group – Monday evening 24 November 2008**

The focus of discussion in this group was on an alternative site for the proposed developments.

### **Focus Group – Tuesday morning 25 November 2008**

- An obligation regarding the cuttlefish aggregation to do all you can to protect it.
- Some view of the long term issues attached to the Lowly Peninsula – let's have both.
- People have short sighted view – what are we going to leave behind for future generations - how can we find a balance.
- Concern we don't want to lose what we have now.
- Concern being - Whyalla being a fly in fly out, sophisticated camp to support mining – a port to support mining with nowhere to go when you are not working or mining and when the mining has finished Whyalla will become a ghost town.
- Need to look at community development, how the mines/facilities are set up in regards to accommodation – need to be integrating the 'mining community' into the Whyalla community.
- Embed as much economic, recreational, social, health, education, transport, sport, tourism activity within the community – to encourage people to live and stay in Whyalla.

### **Focus Group – Tuesday evening 25 November 2008**

- Are we giving up a local amenity to industry?
- We pay all the costs and they get all the benefits.
- Do we have a choice between Pt Lowly and somewhere else?
- What are we giving up 20/30 years from now – maybe use renewable energy?
- What is the long term loss for the short term gain?
- Lifestyle and heritage of Point Lowly
- Tourism
- Economic Progress – all developments will give the city this
- Family camping ground – place to go and spend time and enjoy life .. (Lifestyle)
- Peaceful environment – people with sickness (oncology) utilise the Point Lowly cottages for the serenity etc.
- The Cringe City – we are not allowed to have anything pretty in Whyalla – dumping on Whyalla because we are the sewer of the State – take one for the State
- There is a feeling throughout wider regions that Whyalla is a dumping ground.
- State Government is not listening at all – done and dusted thing.
- The reasons I live in Whyalla is being taken away – things of beauty destroyed to make money.
- Lack of consultation by the State Government – devalues us
- Every community that has built solely on mining ends up with a hole in the ground and a ghost town. Another step downwards.

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Want to see development but it is looking to be developed in the wrong place.
- Trying to get people to Whyalla is hard enough – it is seen as a dirty industrial city. Have it in the right place!
- In one generation the beach that was very popular has been lost to the community.
- Every industry in Whyalla has difficulty in attracting people to work.
- Development at a cost to the community.
- That is our Sydney Harbour – what would people think if a jetty like this was built next to the Sydney Opera House.
- Threat to people's property investments.
- Any family that has visitors from overseas, interstate visitors – people always to take them to Point Lowly – to show the diverse environment.
- If the development needs to go there – it needs to be an absolute effort to screen away the nasty look of the industry.
- Want the development – but needs to occur in the right way.
- Proposed army spread around Whyalla will take away areas that are now being used for recreational space. This with Point Lowly will reduce the areas that Whyalla use for this purpose.
- There is nothing else around Whyalla that we can use for recreational space – Point Lowly is loved.

### Question 3

#### What do you think needs to happen?

#### Focus Group – Monday morning 24 November 2008

- People would like to hear the thoughts of Council and Elected Members.  
*People don't appreciate what they have .....until it is lost....*
- The people want to know about what is going to happen out there .... We need to know – more detailed information in regards to the proposed developments...
- Answers about what is going to affect the quality of life out there – affect the quality of life in Whyalla, and the Gulf.
- A range of questions need to be answered to identify the impacts of each of the proposals on Point Lowly and Whyalla. *(an appreciation from outside organisations as to the importance of Point Lowly to Whyalla)*
- Needs to be a genuine report on costings etc on the port South of Whyalla as an alternative. *Short term gain for long term pain \$\$\$\$\$.*
- What is the stance regarding the proposals from the Department of Environment and Heritage and Tourism?
- Councilors' need to be more open and concerned re concerns from the community. *(Having views respected and be neutral about it). Councilors' stand as community leaders .... General public look somewhere for leadership – development should have been debated a lot more in Council (reported in the news etc from this discussion). You need somewhere and somebody to get message across. Industry and government listening to industry here – promoting industry....Need Elected Members to debate in Council – to form a stance for the community.*
- Can we have the results of the EIS before for public consult before development commences?
- A good outcome for the community from the information collated from these focus groups.

# POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

## Written comments handed by participants at the end of the session

- I want to see any proposed industrial development for the Whyalla area put south of Whyalla where there is more deep water and not so invasive on our community in Whyalla
- I want to see the SA Government make a serious and thorough feasibility study of the alternatives for a deep sea port south of Whyalla taking into account a long term view
- Environment and landscape values of Fitzgerald Bay retained
- Water quality of gulf maintained and fauna protected
- Noise and dust impacts from rail transport of iron ore managed so as to be minimal on peninsula
- Noise and dust imports of volume road transport through Whyalla urban area prevented via a commitment to a by-pass
- Care in the positioning and design of buildings and structures in Point Lowly
- I want the people to be told all the impacts for each project, ie. noise, light, space, transport (rail/road), any impact on the area, extra road transport impact on the public
- Council to be the carrier of information
- The Government need to be held responsible
- Beach area/lighthouse retained in pristine condition
- Want arrogant Premier to listen to us and our concerns
- For some development in the area
- Concerned about army land issues and proximity to Whyalla community boundaries – particularly “noise factors”
- As a group I would like to help reach the public about the importance of Point Lowly to Whyalla residents, tourism and future generations. One mistake could ruin this pristine environmental wonderland forever – for everyone
- We need to make sure the Cuttlefish are protected and need to make sure they are not destroyed before it is too late
- With industry being developed, we need to make sure it is done properly with no impact on the environment and the life we can provide for the kids of the future, and the quality of life that we enjoy out there today as being a shack owner with no noise pollution, toxic chemicals in the environment etc. As we already have to put up with the army bombing on Easter break which shakes and rattles the windows etc. on a religious holiday break, up to midnight which is unacceptable, but it happens. Protect us for the future.
- Other sites to be seriously considered (within Whyalla area) in less sensitive areas for super port and handling facilities
- Build a multipurpose jetty to be used by all companies south of Whyalla
- Debate the alternatives in what is better developments on the Point Lowly Peninsula
- Industry and Government to have a genuine respect for the amenity value and the long term good of Whyalla rather than short term political gains and profit
- Stand up and be counted, say what you want to see happen at Whyalla and Point Lowly
- Mayor to speak for the people
- Want to see Government officers making themselves available to speak to the community – several sessions – not just one appearance
- Cancel the whole industrial development at Point Lowly – declare it as a reserve at least

# POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- No salt water into the gulf – not enough exchange of water overall (marine biologist)

## **Focus Group – Monday evening 24 November 2008**

- If anything goes out there it has to be compatible and sustainable with the existing uses out there and not to put those uses at risk. Promoting what we have and still promote and alternate port.
- The Northern Coastline (from False Bay North right up to the Army enclosure) is appropriate for clean and green activities (recreation, tourism, aquaculture, wind farm, coastal living)
- Can the Stony Point Environment Consultative Group be reconvened?
- What happens when Port Bonython runs beyond its sustainable life?
- People (in authority, those proposing developments) need to acknowledge that what is being proposed out there is a highly compromised port.
- Highly compromised industrial estate for that area (the Port Bonython area is restrictive) - EIS of the Southern site – need to look at all aspects from mine through to transport to ship site.
- Council to ask the State Government through the Environment, Resources and Development Committee of Parliament to come and meet the people of Whyalla and hold an enquiry.
- When are they going to do a full depth study into an alternative southern site for a deep sea port and associated industrial estate?
- State Government to conduct an independent in-depth study of the Southern and Northern port options looking at the long term economic impacts to enable a balanced assessment of the two sites.
- When are we going to have a comprehensive long term plan for utilising our Northern coastline for:
  - Eco tourism
  - Recreation
  - Recreational and professional fishing
  - Tourism (Caravan parks, camping sites, walking trails, diving facilities etc)
  - Coastal living (retrieve 50 allotments for coastal living)
  - Aquaculture
  - Wind farming
- If we stuff up Point Lowly we have to go 100 kms to go to a decent beach.
- What are the real measurable benefits of the proposed developments to Whyalla (economic and social)
- Regarding the fuel facility and potential refinery consideration to moving the tank farms to the Cultana Industrial area to take advantage of existing infrastructure at that location. The increase costs of pipeline and pumping would be more than offset by the reduced transport costs incurred by then user over the longer term.

## **Written comments handed by participants at the end of the session**

- It was good to hear the concerns and they were mostly constructive and positive. The south coast versus the north coast locations (clean and green) a very good comparison
- Encouraging to hear that individuals and groups will be proactive and write to State Government departments and mining companies
- Real benefits of industrialisation wasn't really answered as group thought very little employment (long term) advantages available

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Council (and State Government) should fund consultancy brief to evaluate long term merits of Mullaquana and Point Lowly on economy and environment. If that fails, petition Environment Resources and Development Committee of Parliament to investigate and report on merits/demerits of Mullaquana and Point Lowly sites while holding further development of port

### **Focus Group – Tuesday morning 25 November 2008**

- State Government needs to look at /reassess its process in engaging community(s). Northern Spencer Gulf Resource Processing Strategy used as a model and to include communities from Port Lincoln thru to Whyalla (Economic Development Boards etc) to go thru a decision-making process.
- This process to take into account the social, economic, environmental, recreational, indigenous amenity of the area.
- Community apathy needs to be addressed.
- Leadership and strategic direction from someone re issues of development
- Within community – address apathy - get community involved
- Local Council to represent community – drive a cohesive community view to get to State Government
- State Government to represent the State with due regard to Local Government and community
- Federal Government
- Negative view of the town
- Involve schools? – identifying the ways that different groups need to be involved within the community - (using Information Technology) need interactive sites.
- Linking the social network into this process.
- People to people power – spark the passion
- Want numbers – need people to speak up
- Need to sell the concept.
- Council engage someone full time – needs ownership
- Council has got to in some way reach a view on what best represents the communities views – then Council has to have a 'business plan' on what the community wants. Need to lobby the State Government.
- Council should take responsibility for funneling the communities view into a cogent plan to influence the State Government.
- All alternative options for developments are looked at very seriously and the results and/or process are followed through with consultation and input with the stakeholders (everyone in community, Local Government, people of knowledge)

### **Written comments handed by participants at the end of the session**

- Want industrial development and Point Lowly kept as it is
- Alternate sites looked at
- Want to see EIS for Point Lowly
- Yes to industries
- Good clear facilitation – thank you
- Point Lowly and Fitzgerald Bay highly scenic – one of the few areas in SA that overlook water and see a mountain range – highly attractive. Has great potential
- Hard to fully discuss when EIS and designs not available
- Why are our governments taking such short views on development at all costs? What are we going to leave behind for future generations? No more minerals, no

# POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

environment, just a large mess to clean up after the mining companies have finished with our resources.

## Focus Group – Tuesday evening 25 November 2008

- Government do an equal amount of costing and development – what are we comparing it with? Look at costing of alternative sites?
- Show the advantages and disadvantages.
- Pro development – but at the right location.
- Core group (incl John Scott) has recognised an area South of Whyalla. No environmental issues – opens up whole of the Eyre Peninsula – no by-passes (other than a rail line)
- All of the advantages but none of the disadvantages.
- It is an Action Group that is not against development – just put it in the right place.
- Pro development in the right way.
- Council takes on board thoughts and opinions – and shows the positives and negatives.
- Council to steer/influence/facilitate the Government into looking at an alternative site (South).
- Split the refinery industry(s) into two separate projects – refinery could stay at Point Lowly and the tank farm could be located at the Cultana Industrial Estate.
- Desal plant – best place to be on the West Coast (Elliston).
- Chemicals etc that are put into the brine and pumped back into the sea.
- Most advanced technology to be used in the running of the desalination plant.
- In all decisions - can we get the best outcome/plant and not the cheapest! At least the two best options not the only option.
- Process that the Council/SA Water used for the recycled water – terms of looking into the options – was good for the community. An outcome that was good for the whole of community.
- Could still have desal plant producing 95% potable water at point lowly a second stage desal module located point lowly to produce potable water for the Eyre Peninsula and another module at Roxby Downs to produce potable water for the residents.
- Further follow up focus groups (open community engagement groups) where developers/researchers/scientists can give their proposals to the community.
- Salt back onto the land? (from the desal plant) – problem with the volume of salt.
- Council could take advantage of the current economic turmoil – there is less need for these projects to be rushed through.
- Use the economic turmoil to the community's advantage.
- Government to check into the financial sustainability of the developers – are they (the developers) always going to take the cheap option because it is not viable for them to work other ways.
- Council should be talking to Flinders Ports Consortium (all of the various stakeholders).
- Power of the community – how do you empower the community?
- 3 bus loads of people down to Adelaide to stand on the State Government steps – with placards.
- Letters to ministers – they are obliged to answer letters.
- Media coverage – someone with experience that knows how to do it.
- Proposal sent to separate mining companies – re invite to attend a meeting for a presentation re alternate site.

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Invitation has also been sent to the Mayor to be part of this process.
- Request for Council to provide resources to gather data etc for this presentation to go ahead.
- Southern Port alternatives:
  - Opens access to Eyre Peninsula
  - Potential Grain Terminal (access for other commodities)
  - Reduces road traffic through Whyalla
  - Lower cost option for the Eyre Peninsula miners
  - Close to existing largest iron ore mine in SA (OneSteel)
  - Large area of flat land which is easily developed
  - Very large area of deep water – no dredging required – easy channel
- Greenfield Site:
  - No restrictions on development
  - No hazardous neighbours
  - No ordnance clearance required
  - No existing tourist activity
  - No existing recreational activity
  - Close access to deep water (20 metres)
- Could be developed into combined export facility for Eyre Peninsula and North of SA eliminating the need for new or upgraded ports at Port Lincoln, Arno Bay, Pt Lowly
- Minimal impact on visible amenity
- Eliminates the need to a Whyalla by-pass to allow Eyre Peninsula access to a port

### **Written comments handed in by participants at the end of the session**

- Best outcome not the cheapest for all the Eyre Peninsula
- Other costs factored into the proposals, extra road trains, other roads/wider roads, rail lines etc.
- Guaranteed safety of beaches/environment/Cuttlefish – not just suggested/encouraged etc.
- Council to seek a slow-down in the process to allow best possible decision to be made. February is way too early to get this finalised
- Would like to see more communication between the “SWAT” (Action”) team and (us) the community and all the help this group needs to progress with alternative sites and uses of the port
- The most important thing is to go to an alternative site south of Whyalla and this has to be seriously explored
- We talked about acting with Council when meeting with developers and State Government – did we lose this idea? Mayor invited to attend meeting.
- Point Lowly is the soul of Whyalla. I want it to remain free of more industrialisation
- Make sure the approach taken is a professional one to match the approach that businesses involved use and that Government will use
- Make use of the Council, WEDB and local business resources to prepare and present or lobby relevant stakeholders
- Most importantly make the development happen but with the right decisions to enable the community lifestyle to remain and the business developers achieve their \$ outcomes
- Want to make sure the State Government do not allow the cheapest option to the developers because that is not what the developers want at the expense of the community

# POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Synergies and externalities need to be considered to determine the best site for development

## Question 4

### What would you like not to happen?

#### Focus Group – Monday morning 24 November 2008

- No brine added to the Gulf.
- Whole concept is wrong – geology of the area, flora and fauna, marine etc has been ignored – short sighted on behalf of Government to use this area.
- Wouldn't want them to discard the alternative developments to be put out on the peninsula that is better for the Whyalla community.
- What are the benefits for the State from these developments – and what are the benefits of not developing.
- Where are the young people represented within the focus groups? – no young people at this forum group.

#### Written comments handed in by participants at the end of the session

- Don't want to see the gulf polluted with salt, iron ore etc.
- I do not want to see "fait accompli" development at the Point Lowly Peninsula as happened with Santos, with permanent loss of an area that could compete with the Greek islands as a tourist attraction
- No brine added to the gulf
- Degradation of the environment of the Point Lowly Peninsula
- Pollution affecting aquaculture industry
- I don't want our comments and views to be ignored by the Government
- I don't want the mining companies to build a jetty at Point Lowly
- I don't want our Council to be seen to be passively accepting what the State Government wants – be noisy (like Peter Davis) and use the media to benefit our cause
- What I don't want to see is dust in the air, brine in the water and loss of recreational areas
- Don't keep going over all the same ground in every forum – keep getting peoples views
- Don't be complacent

#### Focus Group – Monday evening 24 November 2008

- Buffer Zone (Public Exclusion Zone) around the proposed jetty – diving area will be compromised.
- The desalination plant should run on 100% renewable energy.

#### No written comments handed in by participants at the end of the session

#### Focus Group – Tuesday morning 25 November 2008

- Don't want Point Lowly industrialised
- Alternatives ignored
- Inadequate consultation with the community
- Don't miss out on the opportunity – we want both
- Don't want to lose the one thing that is accessible from home

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- Don't want to lose a unique world event (Cuttlefish)
- Don't want Council/all levels of Government to hold onto information that can be provided to the community
- Don't want to lose the potential for eco tourism and coastal living
- Don't want the current government view that 'they own the land and that this will be good for you mentality'. It is just not 'cricket!'
- Need to get Cr Eddie Hughes' motion off the table – and get the area rezoned.
- Need a far more comprehensive Government approach for community consultation.

### **Written comments handed in by participants at the end of the session**

- Don't want to lose the economic opportunities
- No to locating industry at Point Lowly

### **Focus Group – Tuesday evening 25 November 2008**

No comments recorded under this heading during the session for this group

### **Written comments handed in by participants at the end of the session**

- The development at Point Lowly just because it has already had work done on it
- Whyalla being given another bad name
- The development not benefiting Whyalla in some way
- I don't want Point Lowly spoilt by industrial development
- Native title and heritage not to be compromised
- Don't want this forum meeting to merely be a "feel good" exercise, but have the Council to take the strong feelings of Whyalla to finance and provide resources to push our cause
- No development at Point Lowly – relocate to alternative site down south

# POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

## APPENDIX D - QUESTIONS RAISED DURING THE FOCUS GROUP

### DISCUSSIONS

These questions will be put to the Point Lowly Task Force for further action.

- State Government versus Whyalla Council. How do they interact? Do we as the Whyalla community “have a say” through the Council. Or is the State Government merely relaying information to us (the community) via the Council?
- If information regarding the proposed 30 mines is available – can we find out this info from the State Government?
- Can Government and industry seriously look at an ‘optional’ port (in the vicinity of Whyalla)?
- Why not develop one super port on the peninsula between Lincoln and Whyalla?
- Truck transport (tonnage – 7 to 13 million tonne) down Playford Avenue – (because it cannot be railed) – who is going to deal with this?
- Desalination Plant – re ‘dodge tide’ (in the top of the gulf) how do they know that salinity levels won’t change the impact on marine life?
- Is there an option on the dodge tide that the plant can be shut down?
- What will happen to BHP if/when damage is done – will they stop producing the water or will they keep producing?
- Is the Desal Plant part of an indenture which is part of BHP Billiton’s project (Olympic Dam)? Subject to an Environmental Impact Statement? What would happen to the brine – does it have to go into the sea?
- Is BHP going to produce drinkable water from the desalination plant?
- What are the State Governments plans – what do they look like? - the one on the State Government’s pamphlet is Council’s plan.
- How credible is the BHP Billiton EIS?
- Is Billiton going to use the jetty to transport copper and zinc concentrate? And what might be the implications if there is a spillage?
- What controls do we have on what is transported from the jetty?
- What possible ores of any are to be transported from the jetty? Can we have a guarantee that no product that is detrimental to the marine environment is transported from the jetty?
- Ship traffic – what effect the increase in ship traffic (ballast water etc) will have on the gulf?
- How deep is the water out there? What is the draft of these cape sized ships? Where are we going to be able to sail (recreational uses) (ship traffic)?
- Who might pay for the cost of a major spill?
- If the EIS – (for all proposed developments) is not favourable will it still go ahead?
- Chance for the community to say yes or no to development?
- Fine to have development but probably in a different location – a location which is more suitable – what happens if an environmental disaster happens?
- Where is the industry going to get the water from – to operate? Water crisis.
- BHP EIS not due out till next year – so many unknowns ... arguing over unknowns – same for the jetty – how is this going to impact on the environment – how is it going to be designed? Are we still going to have access to the coast road?
- Why can’t the proposed jetty have a dual use?
- Free trade agreement – all ports have to be secured? How will the public have access to the jetty if this is so?

## POINT LOWLY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

- How are they going to build the proposed jetty and not contradict Aboriginal Heritage issues?
- What is the next best place in this whole process and what would be the alternate costs? How do we make a wise decision?
- We don't have any alternatives – is there a better option for this development?
- What is the real economic benefit for the proposed development? If we are willing to trade off something what is the trade off?
- Are we giving up Point Lowly to fund projects outside the region?
- Nothing has been said about how vehicles are coming into the sheds at the proposed developments at Lowly etc. red dust issues attached?
- How will the red dust from the road vehicles be combated?
- Is there was to be a by-pass who is paying for it?
- Assurances by the State Government that they will not do to Whyalla what they have done Kakatha Mula nation (SA/WA board) – open slather?
- What assurances by the Government are we going to be given that only iron ore is being transported out from the proposed jetty?
- How far out into the Gulf will the desalination brine be put out into the gulf?
- Does the dispersion pipe (from the Desal Plant) form a barrier to the cuttlefish migration?
- Are we giving up a local amenity to industry?
- Do we have a choice between Pt Lowly and somewhere else?
- What is the long term loss for the short term gain?
- What is the stance regarding the proposals from the Department of Environment and Heritage and Tourism?
- Can we have the results of the EIS before for public consult before development commences?
- Can the Stony Point Environment Consultative Group be reconvened?
- What happens when Port Bonython runs beyond its sustainable life?
- When are they going to do a full depth study into an alternative southern site for a deep sea port and associated industrial estate?
- Government do an equal amount of costing and development – what are we comparing it with? Look at costing of alternative sites?
- Where are the young people represented within the focus groups?

### **QUESTIONS HANDED IN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSIONS**

- Are the concerns of the community going to be put back to the mining companies and government?
- When will the government talk to the people?
- How is the Council going to present themselves to the State Government on our behalf? Will it be in person or by other media?
- How will power for the developments be supplied?
- What effects will the projects have on greenhouse emissions?
- Who and how do we harass the government?
- Are there other native title claimants on Point Lowly and seas in the gulf other than Barngala group?
- I want to know the likelihood of change in plans – are we fighting a losing battle?

July 08

POINT LOWLY PROPOSED  
DEVELOPMENTS  
FOCUS GROUPS REPORT