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**Title:**

Speech announcing \$600000 expansion by Safcol at Port Lincoln

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Mr. Pach, Mr. Ware,

I don't like disillusioning people, least of all my good friends at SAFCOL, but I must admit your plans for expansion at Port Lincoln aren't the only reason I'm here today.

The prospect of trying those tuna dishes we will be tasting later interested the cook in me as much as SAFCOL's plans appealed to the Premier in me.

With my own cookbook coming out later this year, I now have to keep an eye on the culinary Opposition as well.

But before I can attend to that side of the occasion, I must announce this very important project which SAFCOL have for Port Lincoln - a \$600,000 new tuna freezing and cold storage plant.

This new complex will be a major addition to South Australia's fishing industry, because it will increase the processing capacity of one of our major plants very substantially.

The expansion of the Port Lincoln plant will ensure that all the tuna caught by SAFCOL members can be handled, instead of the situation where the increasing shortage of bulk freezing and storage accommodation meant that many fishermen would have been forced to stop work at the height of the season.

The new facilities will have a freezing capacity of 50 tonnes a day and will hold 1500 tonnes of tuna in cold storage, lifting SAFCOL's total freezing capacity to 130 tonnes a day and total cold storage capacity to 5000 tonnes.

A contract has been let for the construction and a South Australian firm, H.F. Sarah & Sons will do the work.

A firm of consulting engineers, Kinnaird Hill de Rohan and Young, will be researching the latest overseas developments in freezing and cold storage equipment and design.

I'm sure the new work will be among the most modern and most efficient in the world.

This expansion will enable SAFCOL to handle a rate of catch higher than any rate experienced so far. The new plant will make the Port Lincoln plant the biggest seafood processing operation in Australia and one of the largest food processing complexes of any type in the country.

The SAFCOL plant at Lincoln is a vital part of the economy of the city, employing almost 250 people in full production, and paying out more than \$1 million in wages.

The total value of the output from the Port Lincoln plant is expected to be more than \$4 million this financial year, and with the new freezing and cold storage plant, that will go higher.

Job security in country areas is a major concern of the Government, and unfortunately there is no magic wand which this Government, or any Government can wave to produce new industries in country areas.

Governments can provide incentives, and in South Australia we have one of the most attractive and comprehensive package of incentives of any State, but the main criterion always is the economic viability of the industry in its new location.

For that reason, the Government wants industries in country areas to be based on local resources be they product or labour resources.

In Port Lincoln's case, a major local resource is fishing, and the Government wants that resource to benefit the whole community.

The State Government is very conscious of the importance of our fishing industry and its scope for managed expansion.

In the last State Budget we doubled the funds for the Department of Fisheries and we are concentrating on providing the industry with very high standard research facilities, both in the physical and economic aspects of the industry.

The Department is conducting much more research into our fish resources, their harvesting, their viability and their preservation. In a State which is not over-endowed with natural assets, we have off our coast a resource which can be more fully used, but not over-exploited.

In co-operation with the industry, the Government is working to a fisheries policy which will manage our resources and ensure a long term high economic yield.

One example of that joint effort is the work which SAFCOL and the Government have been carrying out over the past few weeks investigating trawl fishing off the S.E. coast.

The co-operative is convinced that a major trawl fishery will be developed off the South Australian coast within the foreseeable future.

This belief is supported by the preliminary results of work carried out by the C.S.I.R.O. research vessel Courageous.

With the support of the S.A. Government, SAFCOL arranged for Courageous to carry out a very limited trawling programme off the S.E.

Although far from positive, the information which has been gained indicates the strong possibility of commercial beds of fish available for future development.

With its major processing plants at Port Lincoln and Millicent, SAFCOL is equipped to play a major role in the development of the fishing industry.

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