



Plans to offer slice of island paradise

PORT LINCOLN

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TRAVEL EDITOR

LOWER Eyre Peninsula could have its own piece of island paradise if plans to develop Boston Island are approved.

Port Lincoln Mayor Peter Davis wants to turn Boston Island, off Port Lincoln, into a residential and tourism hub, modelled on the picture-postcard Magnetic Island.

Mr Davis, who owns the island, said the ministerial development plan amendment was "two to three weeks off" being given to Urban Development and Planning Minister, Paul Holloway.

The plan includes 1000 allotments for residential use and possibly two marinas. "It is a long, long way off yet," Mr Davis said.

"It is the most complex

and intricate, long-winded process." Mr Davis said it had taken 18 years to get to this point.

If the minister approves the application it then goes to public scrutiny.

Mr Davis said his objective was to give South Australia an island comparable to Magnetic Island. "Magnetic Island, off Queensland's (coast) is the most fantastic development," he said. Mr Davis said despite the fact it was an extremely popular tourist destination, its success was because of the residential developments on the island.

"Our future is not in short-term holiday escapes but (people) who come to live here," he said.

Mr Davis said there had been a "steady stream of people wanting to sign up for a block".

A spokesman for Mr Holloway said the minister had been "waiting since May last year for him to finish the report".

"Once we get it then the minister can put the process in motion," he said.

The draft would then be open to public scrutiny.

"Any development on Boston Island will need to be carefully managed to preserve its natural features," the spokesman said. He said the DPA was "simply a process to examine whether the island should be re-zoned for this particular proposal".

Yacht race worth \$1m

BOATING enthusiasts are expected to inject more than \$1 million into the Lower Eyre Peninsula economy this month.

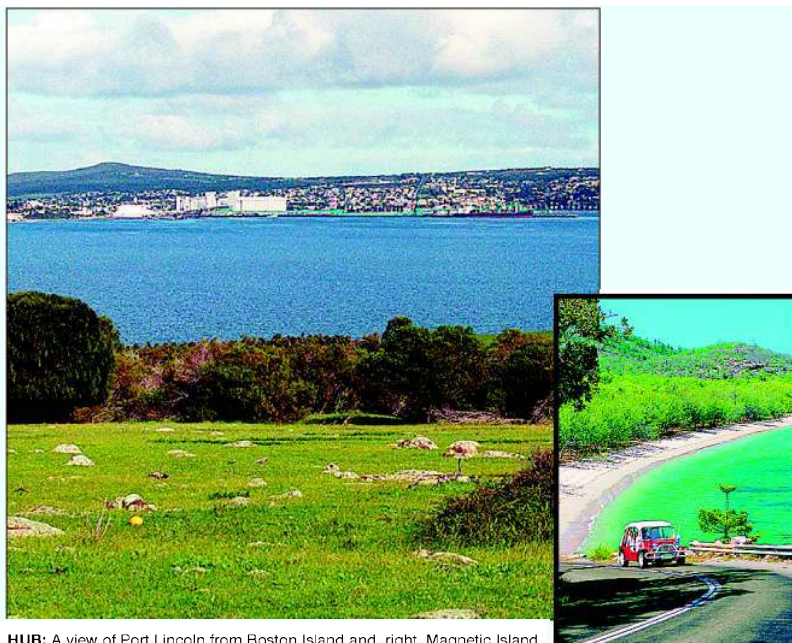
About 80 yachts are expected to compete in the annual Lexus of Adelaide Bluewater Classic, Adelaide to Port Lincoln yacht race, from February 22 to 23.

Competitors will come from across the country.

Many are expected to stay on in Port Lincoln for the Lexus of Adelaide Lincoln Race Week events from February 25 to 28.

Public celebrations will be held on the Port Lincoln jetty on the Saturday night, to mark the end of the Bluewater Classic. The party will continue on the Sunday with bands, food stalls and presentations.

For details visit www.plyc.com.au



HUB: A view of Port Lincoln from Boston Island and, right, Magnetic Island.