



# Centre work set to start

By Billie Harrison

THE expansion of the Lincoln Marine Science Centre will begin next year as one of the first stages in the State's Marine Innovation in Southern Australia (MISA) plan.

The \$25.8 million MISA 'blueprint' launched by Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister Rory McEwen in Adelaide yesterday signals the beginning of the implementation of a project that has been 12 months in the planning.

Representatives of the MISA steering committee visited Port Lincoln several times during the development of the plan, which involves a \$4.8 million redevelopment and expansion of the Lincoln Marine Science Centre.

Construction is expected to begin next year to double the size of the current centre and provide a world-class facility.

Direct employment in Port Lincoln related to the MISA initiative is forecast to increase more than five fold to provide 250 positions for researchers and teachers by 2020.

Mr McEwen said MISA was expected to deliver about \$700 million in commercial benefits through increased efficiencies in seafood industries and in the development of new industries.

MISA is a State Government initiative in partnership with the South Australian Research and Development Institute, Flinders University, University of Adelaide, SA Museum and the seafood industry.

The MISA Steering Committee and MISA working groups included 60 representatives drawn from those groups, as well as the Australian Seafood Industry Council, Tuna Boat Owners Association of SA, SA Seafood Industry Council, SA Fishing Industry Council, Tuna Boat Owners Association of Australia, SA Marine Finfish Farmers Association, Seafood Council (SA), Australian Fisheries Academy, TAFE, Rock Lobster Industry Association, Aquaculture SA, regional development boards and CSIRO.