

Safety signs and bins for local fishing spots

A ROLL-OUT of safety measures in Brisbane's most popular fishing locations to help protect the city's seabird population has been announced by Lord Mayor Graham Quirk on a recent visit to Shorncliffe.

Cr Quirk said Council would install safety signs and bins in 16 bayside and waterfront locations encouraging responsible disposal of litter in an effort to reduce numbers of pelicans and seabirds injured by such waste as fishing line.

"I want Brisbane to be Australia's most clean and green city and protecting the health of our biodiversity is an important part of reaching this goal," Cr Quirk said.

The new signs will be placed beside bins at selected jetties or boat ramps at Bald Hills, Breakfast Creek, Hemmant, Lota, Pinkenba, Morningside, Newstead, Nudgee Beach, Shorncliffe and Wynnum.

One of the waterfront areas already featuring the safety signs and bins is Sandgate Pier at Shorncliffe, where Cr Quirk was promoting the \$10,000 initiative in partnership with Brisbane's Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc.

The initiative aims to educate visitors to local creek, bayside and foreshore locations about the importance of putting litter and used tackle in the bin.

Liberal National Party candidate for Deagon ward, Gordana Blazevic said, "essentially these bins ensure people that are fishing do the right thing. It's all about responsible fishing.

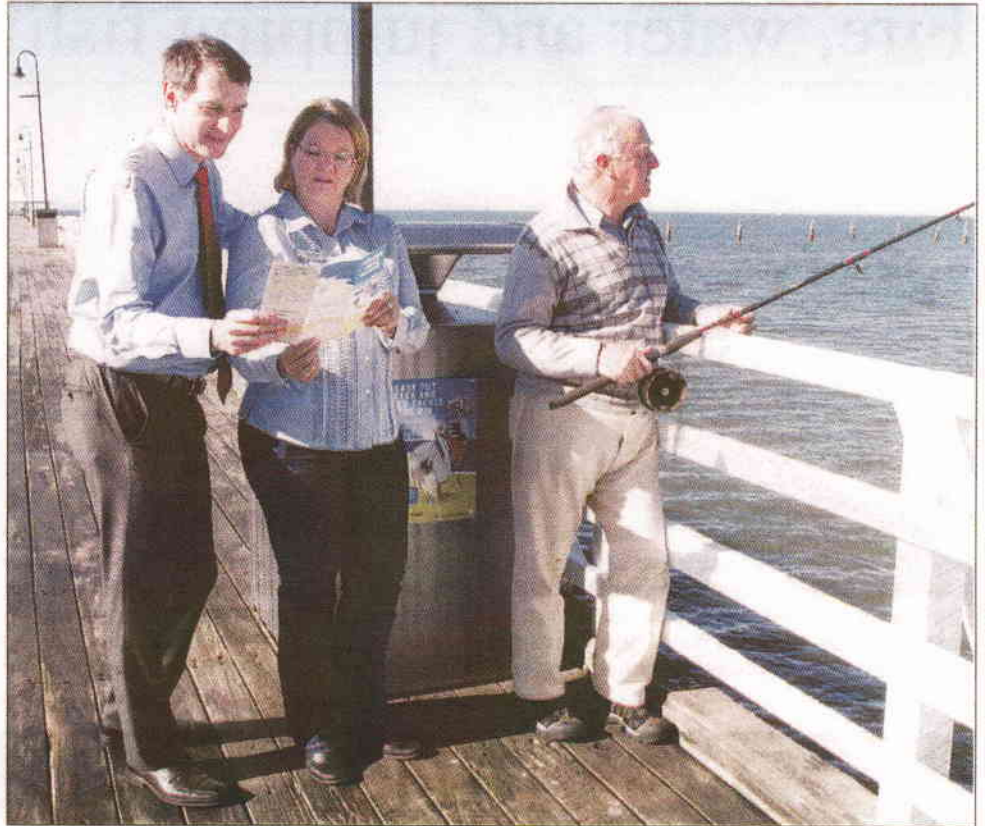
"Fishing is one of the great Queensland pastimes, but it's important we protect the fish along the way," she said.

Local fisherman, David Lewis said, "Old fishing lines break and tangle easily."

Vice President of the Pelican and Seabird Rescue association, Ms Natalie Forrest said, "It's not always an active fishing line where birds get caught in.

"The bird's use the fishing line as nesting material and baby birds can easily get tangled in it and then try to fly and get caught.

"The bins are for people putting their rubbish in so it doesn't affect the waterways as well as giving them a number to contact for



•Lord Mayor Graham Quirk pictured with LNP candidate for Deagon ward, Gordana Blazevic and local fisherman, David Lewis on the pier at Shorncliffe.

immediate help. What you see is their home, we wouldn't throw hooks and line around our house so why would it be okay to do the same in their home?" Ms Forrest said.

The Pelican and Seabird Rescue association covers all areas of Brisbane and from Deception Bay down to Jacobs Well.

They receive on average 1-2 calls daily reporting fishing related incidents that have caused either internal or external injuries to the birds.

It is recommended to reel the bird in, while trying not to cause any more damage to the bird and then secure it and ring for help.

Do not try to untangle the bird, as they

can be quite dangerous and if the objects causing the injuries to the bird are left, then it will make determining the best treatment easier for the experts.

As part of an \$8000 Council Environmental Grant, Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc has also produced brochures and stickers to drive home the message about responsible disposal of litter near Brisbane's waterways.

To report injured wildlife or for more information, phone either Brisbane City Council on 3403 8888 or Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc on 0404 118 301.

-Kaelyn Hann