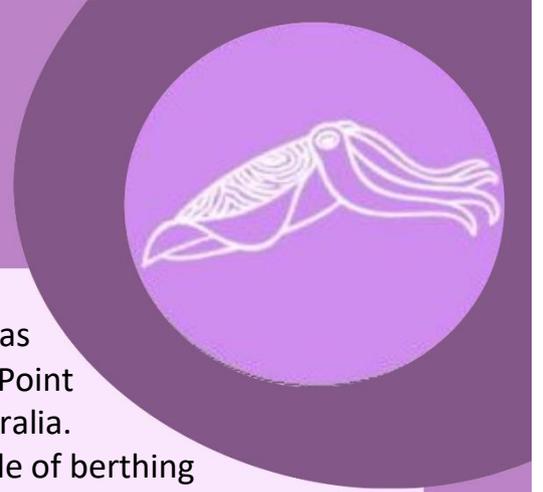


Bonython



Port Bonython is the location of a deep-water port, gas fractionation plant and diesel storage facility west of Point Lowly in the Upper Spencer Gulf region of South Australia. The existing wharf is 2.4 kilometres long and is capable of berthing small Capesize ships with a maximum capacity of 110,000 tonnes. The wharf was established in 1982 and named after John Bonython, the founding chairman of Santos Limited. The structure is leased to Santos by the South Australian Government and is used for the export of hydrocarbon products. Waters adjacent to Port Bonython fall within the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park's outer boundary. A sanctuary zone has been created for the protection of the giant Australian cuttlefish. It covers a section of inshore breeding habitat immediately to the west of the proposed Port Bonython bulk commodities export facility.

Every year from May to August thousands of giant Australian cuttlefish gather in a patch of shallow water on the rocky coastline between Fitzgerald Bay and False Bay because it is the cuttlefish mating season! These amazing 'chameleons of the sea' are one of the largest species of cuttlefish found in the world, and can reach up to 60cm in length and can weigh up to 5kg.

Diving with the giant cuttlefish can feel very otherworldly. The strange facts that make the cuttlefish so different are:

- Cuttlefish have three hearts and green blood.
- According to studies they are capable of counting.
- Cuttlefish can perceive light polarisation, have no blind spots and can see 360 degrees.
- They can instantly change colour and shape to match their surroundings.
- Their lifespan is only 1 – 2 years and only have one breeding cycle.
- Cuttlefish shoot a cloud of black ink when threatened or attacked.
- Cuttlefish camouflage themselves by altering their colour, texture and shape to imitate seaweed, sand beds and rocky outcrops. This 'chameleon' ability also assists the creature in capturing its own prey.

