

## Guard and inmate in texting romance

MEAGAN DILLON

A FORMER South Australian prison officer and her prisoner boyfriend exchanged 168 calls and 1237 text messages on a phone she illegally smuggled into the jail.

Sharon Stretton, 43, who worked at Cadell Training Centre in the Riverland, was convicted and handed a four-month fully suspended jail term for delivering a prohibited item to a prisoner.

Chief Magistrate Mary-Louise Hribal said Stretton started a relationship with a prisoner at a time when she was vulnerable after the breakdown of her marriage.

She said Stretton supplied him with the phone, as well as clothing, alcohol and food, between May and July last year.

"After a search of the prisoner's personal belongings, correctional officers located a mobile phone charger together with a letter which implied the prisoner was having a relationship with a guard," she said.

Further searches located a Telstra prepaid SIM starter kit and a mobile telephone charging cable, along with letters and a greeting card.

"Inquiries revealed that the Telstra service number was in your name, purchased in Berri ... and recharged online."

The court heard Stretton was "highly embarrassed" and "ashamed" of her actions, especially because they resulted in the loss of her job.

Stretton was initially suspended on pay but later resigned.

Magistrate Hribal said mobile phones gave prisoners the opportunity to communicate with people in the outside world and Stretton's actions were "a flagrant breach of trust".

But she acknowledged references showing Stretton was a caring and loyal friend and a good mother.

# Real deal - mayor backs hi-tech hub at old RAH

TORY SHEPHERD  
STATE EDITOR

AN AMBITIOUS plan to transform the old Royal Adelaide Hospital into a global hi-tech hub is a "great opportunity", Adelaide City Council has declared.

The plan, being spearheaded by the University of Adelaide, is to get a City Deal for the site — that would mean a long-term agreement between federal and state governments, as well as the council, universities and industry. *The Advertiser* revealed yesterday that University Vice Chancellor Peter Rathjen

wanted to see the state use the billions of defence dollars set to flow to create a "vibrant ecosystem" similar to Silicon Valley. The old RAH site is the perfect spot because of its size and proximity to the city, he said.

Lord Mayor Martin Haese said there had been "various discussions" about City Deals for years, and that he was keen to have a more formal engagement with the state and federal governments. City Deals can be put in place for 20 years, with varying amounts of funding from those involved.

Mr Haese said it was a "great opportunity".



"City council clearly would welcome a City Deal for the City of Adelaide," he said.

"Given the significance of the oRAH site and given the prominence of the oRAH site and given the imperative to do something meaningful on the oRAH site, we would be open to a discussion clearly with the State Government, with the Federal Government and po-

tentially with the university with regards to the future of that site and the opportunity for a city deal on that site."

Mr Haese said there had not yet been discussions on the exact location for a City Deal.

"But given the imperative to do something quite transformational on that site it could well be a good opportunity ... City Council will be a willing collaborator."

Councillor Anne Moran said anything that brought more federal money into the city was a good idea, but outlined more immediate needs.

"My first thing would be to

put the drug and alcohol services and homeless services in (the oRAH) straight away. There are theatres, beds, bathrooms. I would put the Hutt St Centre there immediately."

She said Adelaide had a "terrible ice problem" and was talking about art galleries instead. "It's like building a pool in your backyard when your toilet doesn't work," she said.

*The Advertiser* has launched the Future Adelaide series to showcase ideas, concepts and plans to drive out state and city forward. If you have a Future Adelaide idea, contact us at [tiser@theadvertiser.com.au](mailto:tiser@theadvertiser.com.au).



SHIP SHAPE: Stephen Young (Ottoway Engineering), Anthony Brdar (MG Engineering) and Sean Costello (Fincantieri)

## SA FIRMS CRUISING IN SHIP BUILD WIN

CAMERON ENGLAND

CONSTRUCTION of three blocks to be used in building a cruise ship in Vietnam will start in SA almost immediately after two local companies were selected for the build.

Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri, which is bidding for the \$35 billion SEA 5000 Future Frigates build in Adelaide, has selected the SA companies. More than 50 tonnes of Australian steel will be used.

Port Adelaide-based MG Engineering will construct two 22.3 tonne blocks and Whyalla's Ottoway Engineering will construct one 23 tonne block. Construction is expected to employ 40-50 local workers.

Each block is just under the size of a tennis court and together they weigh about the same as six buses.

The three blocks are expected to be completed by the middle of the year.

Fincantieri committed to the block build in November as part of its engagement with local suppliers in the lead up to the potential frigate build.

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