



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond
Parliamentary Secretary to the Liberal Leader for
- The River Murray
- Sustainability and Climate Change

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Pederick 'fired up' about volunteering

'Heading into summer after the worst drought on record is going to place enormous pressure on fire services,' says local MP Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.

Himself a volunteer with the Coomandook CFS, Mr Pederick said while fuel loads were low following the poor seasons, what is there is tinder dry and will catch instantly and burn rapidly, and water resources are more precious than ever.

'As the rural population shrinks with the advent of modern farming methods - not to mention the hardships brought on by drought – the pool of available people also shrinks,' said Mr Pederick.

'The CFS is always keen to recruit more volunteers but this season the conditions could place extra demand on the largely volunteer country fire fighting force.'

CFS Murraylands and Riverland Regional Commander Chris Martin said volunteers fill a wide variety of roles within local teams.

'As well as front-line fire fighters, volunteers perform other more diverse roles including communications, catering and office-based operational support. Each role is vital to the team's safety and effectiveness and typing skills can be as valuable as holding a hose,' Mr Martin said.

Mr Pederick, a dryland farmer until his election to State Parliament in March 2006, first joined the CFS at Coomandook in the early 1980s.

'It is not always easy to fit in my two roles but I regard my contribution to the community through the CFS as extremely important,' he said.

During bushfires in the southern Mallee last November, which happened to be on Parliamentary sitting days, Mr Pederick stayed with his CFS colleagues fighting fires.

He urged all country residents to consider volunteering and contact their local CFS station to find out how they can help.

Caption.

Local MP Adrian Pederick finds time in his busy public life to train with and assist the local CFS.

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