

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## ADRIAN PEDERICK MP Member for Hammond

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*Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006*

### **SUPPORT FROM PEDERICK FOR FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006, Adrian Pederick MP, Member for Hammond, asked SA Water to recommence a fire hydrant maintenance program in country areas. A program was discontinued about 10 years ago.

“The implications of the lack of a regular maintenance program are the risk to life and property.”

There have been numerous incidents of CFS members not being about to readily access a fire plug. The plugs have been covered by dirt and overgrown grass or weeds. Once the fire plug has been located, CFS members have had to dig away the debris to be able to connect the fire truck to water and commence extinguishing threatening fires.

“Current checking of fire plugs is done only when a complaint is lodged, and this can take up to two months. In fact, some CFS brigades have given up reporting faulty plugs, because they say there is no point, as there is not the resources to follow them up.”

Adrian Pederick MP commended the CFS for its efforts in providing an outstanding service to the community. Providing an effective emergency service situation is exacerbated when fire units are travelling up and down country back roads or the highway looking for serviceable fire plugs.

The Member for Hammond’s personal experience includes a fire that threatened his local community area of Coomandook, where he attended to assist in fighting the fire.

“As I drove down there to fight the fire, I had one of the local people ring me to say, ‘Which plug is serviceable near your farm?’”

Adrian Pederick MP stressed the need to re-invigorate a fire plug maintenance program is essential in rural areas to minimise the risk of people’s lives and their property.

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