

Thursday, 10 April 2008

NEW FIRE STATION OPENS

Emergency Services Minister Carmel Zollo today opened a new **\$3.9 million** station for the Metropolitan Fire Service at Beulah Park and described it as the first stage in a new era in community safety for Adelaide's north-eastern suburbs.

The station is being officially opened today – the project finishing on time and on budget.

“The north-eastern suburbs are getting increased coverage, with two new fire stations to replace the outdated Glynde facility – with Beulah Park being the first of those to be completed,” Minister Zollo says.

The Minister says work will soon start on the **\$4.4 million** station at Paradise, which is due for completion in mid-2009. The old Glynde station will remain open until then.

“I'm delighted to be able to return an MFS presence to The Parade, a move the Member for Norwood Vini Ciccarello strongly lobbied for,” Mrs Zollo says.

“These projects demonstrate the government's strong commitment to public safety – and our strong commitment to rebuilding our highly valued fire service.

“These two stations alone represent a commitment in excess of **\$8 million** dollars.”

Rapid growth in Adelaide's southern suburbs has also been recognised by the Government, with **\$5.1 million** allocated to build a new MFS station at Seaford by 2009-10.

Port Lincoln is also getting a new **\$5 million** MFS station, which is being constructed two years earlier than originally scheduled.

“We're not only building new stations, we want to ensure they are staffed,” the Minister says.

“Last week I was able to advise the United Firefighters Union that the upcoming budget will include funding for an extra 22 crew for the north eastern suburbs – we have also committed to fund 22 new fire fighters for the southern suburbs.

In addition, since the 2002 election:

- 194 new fire fighters have been recruited (with another group of 18 graduating in October).
- The Government is now funding day staffing at Mount Gambier.

Since 2002 the Rann Government has also increased the MFS operating budget by more than \$20 million – from \$74.5 million in 2002 to more than \$97.9 million in 2007/08.

“We want all South Australians to feel protected in their communities,” says Minister Zollo.

“The Rann Government is committed to upgrading and replacing MFS stations throughout the State – working with our emergency services who make these decisions based on changes in demographics, traffic and housing density and fire risk profiles.

“We are pressing on with a busy construction program, with state-of-the-art facilities such as this one at Beulah Park enhancing the ability of MFS to respond to emergency calls.”