

Tuesday 1 July 2008

### SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE

The South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron has received a boost, with the Rann Government approving a replacement vessel for the Copper Coast flotilla at Wallaroo.

Emergency Services Minister Carmel Zollo says the new \$160,000 vessel – funded under the annual replacement program – should be ready by the end of the year.

The Government is also providing money from the Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) contingency budget for a new vessel storage facility at Wallaroo.

“The role our marine rescue volunteers play is highly valued by this Government – and these initiatives will greatly enhance the ability of the Copper Coast flotilla to make its waters safer,” Mrs Zollo says.

Money from the contingency budget will also be used to:

- Contribute to the cost of a replacement vessel operated by the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard at North Haven (\$70,000)
- Fund an upgraded operational tow vehicle for the Victor Harbor-Goolwa Sea Rescue Squadron

“I’m pleased this money can be put to such good use,” Mrs Zollo says.

“This is on top of funding in the 2008/09 budget, which included \$160,000 for a new Sea Rescue Squadron vessel at O’Sullivan Beach.

“That vessel will not only be capable of responding within its primary area, but also to other areas of the state.”

Since 2003 the Rann Government has funded new boats at:

- Adelaide Shores (SA Sea Rescue Squadron)
- Wirrina (SA Sea Rescue Squadron)
- Victor Harbor (Victor Harbor-Goolwa Sea Rescue Squadron)
- Port Vincent (Australian Volunteer Coast Guard)
- Tumby Bay (State Emergency Service)
- Port Pirie (State Emergency Service)
- Port Lincoln (State Emergency Service)
- Ceduna (State Emergency Service)
- Kangaroo Island (Australian Volunteer Coast Guard)
- Goolwa (Victor Harbor – Goolwa Sea Rescue Squadron)

South Australia's marine rescue capability has also been enhanced, with the State Emergency Service unit at Kingston taking on a Volunteer Marine Rescue role.

"All of these initiatives represent this Government's continued commitment to Volunteer Marine Rescue in South Australia," Mrs Zollo says.