

# media release



## Volunteers and employers to be commended for support of emergency services

17 October 2008

Emergency Services Minister, Hon Michael Wright, will join with the Commissioner of Fire and Emergencies, David Place, to acknowledge a group of self employed volunteers and employers who allow their staff to regularly down tools for emergency service organisations.

Minister Wright will present awards and certificates at a special Volunteer and Employer breakfast ahead of Community Cabinet at the Morphett Vale Country Fire Service (CFS) Station on Monday.

Minister Wright says, "There are over 17,000 fire and emergency service volunteers across the State who selflessly dedicate their time to the CFS and SES to help build strong and resilient communities.

"So we all have a role to play to ensure our volunteers, and those who employ them, feel that their contribution is valued and their time and efforts are genuinely appreciated."

David Place, Commissioner of Fire and Emergencies says, "Emergency service volunteers are an integral part of our State's emergency response capacity. The CFS and SES would not be as readily able to fight bushfires or assist with other emergencies without the tireless efforts of their legion of volunteers and the employers who support them.

"The State's emergency services volunteers add to the social capital of their communities, and their employers, by being prepared to release their workers at short notice, also contribute to the fabric and resilience of their communities.

"Activities such as the Volunteer and Employer breakfast allow us, in some small way, to formally recognise and say thank you to these individuals," says Mr Place.

At the breakfast Minister Wright will present 21 'Premiers Certificate(s) of Appreciation' in recognition of outstanding volunteer service. The recipients are CFS (11) and SES (10) volunteers who have shown great dedication and commitment to volunteering with emergency services over many years.

Among the recipients is Ian Taverner, Deputy Group Officer of Mawson Group, who has been with the CFS for 40 years, and Trevor Arnold who has been with the Noarlunga SES for 24 years.

Mr Taverner has been a long standing Deputy Group Officer with the CFS and has exhibited exemplary operational capabilities, including during the Mount Bold and Willunga fires where he was Divisional Commander.

Mr Arnold's volunteer work for the SES has seen him rise through the ranks as a member of the Noarlunga unit to that of Rescue Officer. Mr Arnold's technical skill within specialist rescue is second to none in the State. His leadership within the local unit has ensured that Noarlunga has continued to set the pace for specialist rescue across the State and indeed the country.

Sixteen self-employed volunteers and eight employers from the southern region will receive Employer Recognition Certificates.

CFS Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Lawson, and SES Deputy Chief Officer, Matt Maywald, will also be in attendance.

The breakfast starts at 7.30 am with the award presentation commencing from 8.15 am.

**TIME / DATE: 7.30 am, Monday 20 October 2008**

**VENUE: Morphett Vale CFS Station, Doctors Road, Hackham.**