



**Bushfire prevention to be stepped up under Liberals
7 March 2006**

A Liberal Government will amend the *Native Vegetation Act* and the *CFS laws* to reduce the risk of extreme bushfires and death in South Australia, Shadow Environment Minister Iain Evans and Member for Flinders Liz Penfold announced today.

Mr Evans said that under current laws, the *Native Vegetation Act* overrides the *CFS laws*. This means that if a landholder had a clean-up order, the Native Vegetation Council can stop the property being cleaned up, and the fire risk being reduced, if native vegetation is involved.

Under the Liberal Plan, both acts will be reviewed to ensure that the *CFS laws* override the *Native Vegetation Act*.

“Native vegetation does need to be protected, but in life and death situations, like a fire, the *CFS laws* must prevail,” Mrs Penfold said.

“This is about removing red tape and ensuring landholders are able to clean-up excess vegetation in the lead-up to the fire danger season.”

Mr Evans said: “Following the devastation of the 2005 Eyre Peninsula bushfires the Chief Officer of the CFS raised serious concerns regarding conflicts between the two laws.

“He described how the *Native Vegetation Act* overrides the *CFS laws* and confirmed that the Native Vegetation Council is able to veto clean-up orders if native vegetation is involved.

“He also raised concerns regarding the slow and bureaucratic process landholders are required to undertake in order to gain approval for bushfire prevention burn-offs.

“The Liberals recognise that there is an urgent need to address these issues especially in areas where National Parks and private land holdings share common boundaries.”

Mr Evans said the Liberal Party would also:

- Review the *Native Vegetation Act* so that applications for firebreaks take no longer than two months to process.
- Give priority to Fire Management Plans for Parks in bushfire prone areas.

**CLOSE TO RESOLUTION FOR CITY COUNCIL
26 MAY 2001**

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said the Port Lincoln City Council's problem with clearing native vegetation at the city dump was close to resolution.

"I have been advised that the council has done everything right.

"It appears that a bureaucratic hitch by the Development Assessment Commission in providing sufficient information to the Native Vegetation Council affected decisions."

Mrs Penfold said the issue would be dealt with at the June meeting of the Native Vegetation Council, when it was anticipated that the City Council's application would be approved.