



Port Lincoln Fire 13th January 2009

“Fantastic cooperation between all our emergency services, the air support and also our police resulted in a far better outcome than we might have had with such a fast moving fire. I congratulate all these people who were able to bring their activities together so well and so quickly in this our first major fire for 2009. All the training and preparation has paid off.

However some private and public land holder preparation still needs improvement. Some native vegetation, open grass land and rubbish on properties is not being cleaned up and made safe. If private citizens won't clean up their holdings then others must and send them the bill. This used to always be undertaken by the Port Lincoln City Council but in recent years appears not to have been so actively enforced.

I will be discussing with the Port Lincoln City Council how fire prevention can be improved. It would help in my view if burning was allowed longer into the evenings when the wind often drops and it is safer to burn. Extra hours after the current 3 pm cut off when people have finished their work or sport might also encourage more to put in the effort.

Perhaps an official method to enable the public to draw the council's attention to properties that need fire prevention work would also help.

I particularly thank our emergency service volunteers including all of those who came from much further away at a great cost in time and money to help and to those businesses who let them participate in this community service. Special thanks go to the people behind the scenes who provide the backup that is always required to keep the practical needs of such a large group of people looked after so well.

Finally to all those who did the right thing and ensured their properties were safe so that other people did not have to risk their lives unnecessarily, thank you also.” Mrs Penfold said.

ENDS