



**Murphy's law is alive and well
7 December 2006**

An exercise last Sunday proved once again that Murphy's Law is alive and well.

Murphy's Law states that if something can go wrong, it will.

Last Sunday just one building in Port Lincoln was without power (an outage that lasted about one hour) while work was done on under grounding the power line.

The building was the Civic Centre where the Member for Flinders Liz Penfold has her Port Lincoln office.

The outage happened to fall in the middle of the 'roads phone-in' scheduled from 10am to 2 pm.

Unfortunately in such a case, callers hear the phone ringing and so believe that they are getting through, but the phone in the office that relies on power doesn't ring at all.

Fortunately a number of callers persisted and so were able to get through to nominate a road that they believe needs urgent attention.

And when the power came back on, it took two to answer the barrage of calls as they came in!

Kimba-Buckleboo and White Flat-Koppio-Yallunda Flat were the two roads mentioned most often.

The closure of the rail line to Buckleboo means that all grain at the silo must go out by road in conditions that are considered dangerous, particularly for school buses.

The timing of widening a section of the Lincoln Highway near Port Neill at the busy harvest period also was felt to be dangerous, with an added comment that this was especially so as workers would be off the job for ten days during the Christmas break.

Airport Lane between Coffin Bay and Flinders Highway was nominated for three reasons - its use by tourists, it is a school bus route, and it provides the only access to the airport in an emergency.

In fact, many of the roads nominated are school bus routes as well as part of mail runs, while also used by grain, fuel and freight traffic.

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold thanked all who called in, especially those who kept trying when the phones were engaged or when the power was off and phones rang out.

“Road funding in rural and regional South Australia over the past four years has been cut. This cut has been worsened by the Labor state government dropping Liberal programs to help seal local tourism roads and local roads of economic significance.

“The Wirrulla-Kingoonya road was one that Labor dropped, with even maintenance reduced to a minimum.

“The funding for the unnecessary extension of the tram lines in Adelaide at an estimated cost of \$51 million would be used to seal 500 kilometres of local roads. I seriously question the Labor state government’s priorities,” she said.

Mrs Penfold said that the information received from the phone-in will be very beneficial in prioritising road spending, and she will be putting a submission to the Minister. ENDS