



Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

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BUSHFIRE TRAILS GET \$5 MILLION BOOST

The Rudd Government has announced \$5 million in funding for the better maintenance of Australia's bushfire trails, under the Bushfire Mitigation Program for 2008-09.

Federal Attorney-General Robert McClelland said the funding will help construction, maintenance, and signage works on Australia's extensive network of bushfire trails.

"Bushfires are part and parcel of Australian life," Mr McClelland said. "This makes it imperative to ensure that when bushfires hit, firefighters can get to the scene quickly and safely."

"The Bushfire Mitigation Program helps make this happen by bringing together State fire suppression and land management agencies with local governments to identify and address the most critical fire trail works."

Federal Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth, described the announcement as welcome support for such a critical service for the people of Southern Adelaide regional areas.

"Through building and maintaining fire trails, the program complements existing fire risk management activities around Australia and works in conjunction with State and Territory bushfire mitigation priorities and assessment procedures," said Amanda.

"The March Willunga fire reminded us of the devastation fire can have on a community. More than 200 fire fighters were involved in fighting the significant Willunga fire. "

"Nine fire fighters were injured and tragically, one house was destroyed near Range Road", said Amanda.

"The announced \$5 million in funding for bushfire trails will importantly assist in the prevention of loss of life and property", said Amanda.

"I encourage government agencies at all levels in Southern Adelaide to develop applications for the program".

Information on how to apply and eligibility criteria are available from Emergency Management Australia (EMA), a division of the Attorney-General's Department, at www.ema.gov.au .