

Friday, January 2, 2009

BLUE MARKERS LIGHT THE WAY IN EMERGENCIES

Nearly 115,000 blue reflective cat's eye markers have been fixed on sealed roads throughout South Australia as part of a \$1.9 million State Government project to clearly identify fireplugs.

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says now that the 15-month project is complete, locating water for emergencies will be made easier.

“SA Water has installed the blue markers on roads and painted fireplug lids yellow to make their location more obvious. There are also yellow lines along the road edge to define parking restrictions around fireplugs,” she said.

“South Australian drivers have probably noticed increasing numbers of blue markers along urban roads.

“In an emergency, quick and easy access to water is obviously paramount and this new fireplug system, supported by the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service and the Country Fire Service, will assist in firefighting efforts.

“The Government has received overwhelming support and endorsement of the new system from emergency services’ groups.

“Not only are the fireplugs now easier to identify, but fireplugs have been inspected to ensure they are easily accessible if required.

“The new marking system replaces the former white posts with red caps. These can be harder to identify at night or when they are hidden behind vehicles. The new markers have been placed on the road surface, slightly off-centre.

“SA Water is also completing trials on a new system to identify fire plugs on rural, non-sealed roads, with results expected to be available early next year. If the trial is successful, the program should be rolled-out next year.”