

News Release

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Minister Ast Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Energy

Hon Gail Gago

Minister for State/Local Government

Relations

Minister for the Status of Women

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister Government Enterprises

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CONSUMER AUTHORITIES WEIGHING UP WHYALLA & PT LINCOLN

Consumers in Whyalla and Port Lincoln should rest assured they will be getting what they pay for as consumer authorities check customers in the region are getting the quantities they're led to expect.

The compliance clampdown by Trade Measurement inspectors from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) is targeted on the Eyre Peninsula this week to ensure retailers are complying with weights and measures laws.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gail Gago says irregular targeting like this is about reminding traders of their responsibilities and instilling confidence in regional consumers.

"Eyre Peninsula residents can be assured that it doesn't matter where you live, when you buy something by weight, it should be accurate," says Minister Gago.

The initiative - part of OCBA's ongoing monitoring program - also aims to raise trader awareness about the detriment inaccurate weighing equipment can cause to both the consumer and the trader.

"Accuracy is especially important when buying high value goods such as meat and fish where a small error could mean a big difference in price, and it's not always in the trader's favour," says Minister Gago.

OCBA inspectors will be conducting random audits of retailers in the area selling goods by weight or measure.

"Whether the trader is a roadside stallholder or a supermarket, the scales they use need to be the right type, accurate and being used correctly," says the Minister.

Regulations require scales to be within a very tight range of accuracy. Scales measuring outside of this range are deemed illegal for trade and must be rectified by a licensed repairer and certified before reuse.

Traders found using defective scales in follow up checks can be subject to penalties of up to \$20,000 under the *Trade Measurement Act 1993*.

Consumers can report any concerns by calling OCBA on 8234 2036 or 131 882 for regional callers. For more information consumers can also visit the website at www.ocba.sa.gov.au.