News Release

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Hon Gail Gago
Minister for State/Local Government Relations
Minister for the Status of Women
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister Government Enterprises
Minister Ast Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Energy

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SCALES BALANCE ON THE EYRE PENINSULA

Consumers in the Eyre Peninsula region have been getting what they pay for and sometimes more, as recent measurement checks by consumer authorities have revealed.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gail Gago, said that devices such as diesel and petrol pumps, weighbridges and retail and post office scales have been checked this month to make sure that consumers are getting the correct weight or volume they are paying for.

"The monitoring has returned some great results and the big winners here are shoppers in the local community," said Minister Gago.

Just three of the 79 instruments checked by inspectors from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) returned an error, and all were in the customer's favour.

"Consumers are entitled to receive the correct weight, volume or measure of goods when making a purchase, which is what these inspections aim to uphold," said the Minister.

The largest error was recorded on a set of scales with a deviation of 1.6 kilograms in the customer's favour. Two petrol pumps were also found to be giving away more fuel than required. The scales and petrol pumps have been rejected for trade until they are repaired and certified.

Minister Gago commended the high rate of compliance in regional areas saying it should serve to reinforce confidence in regional traders.

The Minister also emphasised the importance of trading with accurate and regularly calibrated scales in light of the results.

"Traders need to have their measuring instruments checked regularly, otherwise they may end up losing out themselves or short changing customers and incurring action from OCBA."

The initiative is part of an ongoing monitoring program by OCBA, aiming to protect consumers and raise trader awareness about the importance of using correct measuring instruments.

Traders found using defective scales or petrol pumps 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