

# Media Release



Contact: **Tanya Berryman**  
Phone: 8204 9507

## Education and Information Services

Level 1 Chesser House  
91-97 Grenfell Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1719  
Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone (08) 8204 9516  
Facsimile (08) 8204 9509  
[www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au)

8 February 2005

## Mechanic up in smoke after selling short weight firewood

Selling goods short weight is against the law and traders who engage in these practices could find their fingers getting burnt.

Today in the Adelaide Magistrates Court, Kevin Stanley was convicted for selling short weight firewood and fined a total of \$900, including costs of \$400.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat said this should act as a warning to anyone selling firewood short weight.

“When a consumer purchases goods by weight, measure or number they would expect to have accurate weight. Firewood is no exception.”

Mr Stanley advertised red gum firewood in May 2004 for \$190 per tonne. When checked, one load of wood Mr Stanley delivered was found to be 280 kilograms short, a deficiency of 28%, resulting in an overcharge of \$53.20.

“Purchase your firewood from reputable retailers who use approved scales or measures. If you are responding to an advertisement then ensure the load is weighed or measured and get a docket stating the weight or measure.”

This investigation follows the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) regular random trial purchases of firewood, which in 2004 picked up two offenders, one of which was Mr Stanley.

“This is one instance in which it is particularly hard for consumers to check that the quantity supplied is correct,” Mr Bodycoat said.

Before buying firewood, consumers should:

- Plan ahead and consider purchasing seasoned firewood during the warmer months
- Shop around for the best deal
- Not purchase firewood that looks wet
- Either get the trader to measure the firewood in front of you or give you a docket recording the weight of wood supplied.

OCBA has a brochure available for anyone buying or selling firewood. It includes a checklist for buyers and explains the responsibilities of sellers.

For a copy of the brochure or to report short supply of products contact OCBA's Trade Measurement section on (08) 8234 2036 or 131 882 for country callers. Further information is also available at [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au)



Government  
of South Australia