



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

NSW RFS / RFSA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

26 October 2018

Bronwyn Jones PSM | Executive Director Membership
and Strategic Services

Agenda

- Update on current initiatives and recent events
- Our New HQ
- Guardian
- Fire season outlook

Operations Directorate Changes

- Establishment of new Regional Services structure
 - Director level position responsible for regions East and North
 - Director level position responsible for regions West and South, based at Dubbo
- Each director has appropriate support staff
- Dubbo-based role will also include management of the Dubbo training facility.
- Centralisation of some existing Regional Services functions at a state level, designed to streamline budget planning

Recent announcements

- Recruitment of Director role in Regional Services
- Recruitment of Executive Director, Membership and Strategic Services
- Appointment of Kelly Browne AFSM to rank of Assistant Commissioner



**HOW FIREPROOF
IS YOUR PLAN?**



Volunteer Memorial





NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



Bruce McDonald AFSM
Executive Director Infrastructure Services

Our New HQ





NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Stephen O'Malley

Executive Director Finance and Executive Services

Presumptive Legislation

- Introduces changes to workers compensation provisions for NSW firefighters.
- Makes it easier for NSW firefighters diagnosed with certain cancers to make claim for workers compensation entitlements.
- The legislation prescribes 12 cancers that have been shown to have some causal link to firefighting activity.
- Other similar provisions have been introduced in other states and territories.

Project updates

Guardian

- Final configuration and handover of modules to SMEs
- Face to face and self-directed training being planned to enable a go live early in the new year
- Testing of platform and integration underway with user acceptance testing expected by end of year



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

A decorative graphic consisting of a series of white chevrons pointing to the right, set against a red background, running horizontally across the upper portion of the slide.

Assistant Commissioner Jason Heffernan
Director Response and Coordination

Drought Support Initiatives

The NSW RFS has implemented several initiatives to support affected communities including:

- introduction of a new Special Fire Permit which allows landholders to destroy deceased livestock easily;
- upon request from NSW DPI, making available NSW RFS tankers for carting stock water to landholders;
- NSW RFS members encouraged to support the *Firies For Farmers* initiative, including fundraising for the NSW Farmers Drought Relief Fund.

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood with a large, billowing plume of white and grey smoke rising from a fire in the background. The smoke is thick and obscures the sky. The houses below have dark roofs and are surrounded by greenery.

2017/18 Fire Season

14,467	bush and grass fires (All agencies)
12	fires at Emergency Warning
36	fires at Watch and Act
23	days of Total Fire Ban declaration
17	section 44 declarations
74	habitable structures destroyed
63	habitable structures damaged

Moorebank Avenue Fire



Tathra Wharf

WARNING:
Use of this wharf may be hazardous. Take care for your safety and for those in your vicinity.

⚠️ (Dangerous Goods) ⚠️ (Slippery When Wet)
⚠️ (Large Breaking Waves) ⚠️ (Sharp Edges)
⚠️ (High Voltage) ⚠️ (Other)

NO LIFE SAVING SERVICES

⊘ No Alcohol ⊘ No Smoking

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 000 AND GIVE LOCATION DETAILS AT THE TOP OF THE CALL. IF NO RECEPTION TRY CALLING FROM YOUR MOBILE PHONE.

DO NOT USE THIS WHARF IN DANGEROUS WEATHER CONDITIONS

For detailed information relating to predicted weather conditions visit the Bureau of Meteorology website.

Tathra Fire



Tathra Fire



KLN 40, 4/10

EXCLUSIVE FIREYS FROSTY RECEPTION

FIRE AND ICE

LOCAL BRIGADE REFUSE HELP TO BATTLE INFERNO

- 12:34PM** FIRE ASSISTANCE OFFERED AND DECLINED
- 12:58PM** FIRE ASSISTANCE OFFERED AND DECLINED
- 3:40PM** Priority Request FROM RURAL FIRE SERVICE FIRE FRONT APPROACHING TATHRA REQUEST ALL AVAILABLE APPLIANCES Sourced from Fire & Rescue NSW official log
- 3:48PM** NSWRF'S EMERGENCY BUSH FIRE WARNING. TATHRA - IMMEDIATE DANGER. SEEK SHELTER NOW

SHARRI MARKSON
 Rural Fire Service volunteers knocked back two offers of help from Fire and Rescue NSW in the hours leading up to the Tathra inferno that razed 69 homes on Sunday. Incident logs obtained reveal how at 12.34pm the authority wanted to send appliances to fight a blaze breaking out at Reedy Swamp in Bega Valley after a high number of OOD calls. It tried again at 12.58pm, but this was rejected too.
 Hours passed before the Rural Fire Service put out a "priority request" for "all available" help at 3.40pm. Residents received alerts at 3.48pm warning a catastrophe was underway.

■ FULL REPORTS PAGES 4-7

Picture: Roy Strange

Fire and Rescue NSW offers to help battle Tathra blaze ignored in the hours leading up to town's devastation

RFS IN THE LINE OF FIRE

SHARRI MARKSON, NICK HANSEN, ROSE BRENNAN & ASHLEIGH GLEESON

THE Rural Fire Service knocked back two offers from Fire and Rescue NSW to send emergency brigades to fight the Tathra bushfire in the

Understanding between the two agencies, the Rural Fire Service is required to formally accept an offer of assistance from Fire and Rescue before

An RFS spokesperson said the first triple-0 calls were received just before 12:30pm on Sunday and firefighters from a number of local RFS were dispatched with the first arriving

Sunday's operations. "This review will consider the causes of the fire, and the response of all agencies involved," a spokesman said. Residents yesterday expressed fury they received no

TATHRA FIRE

RFS defends its handling of bushfire

**Eryk Bagshaw
Peter Hannam**

The Rural Fire Service has defended its handling of Sunday's Tathra bushfire, following claims it rejected offers of help from Fire and Rescue NSW before 69 homes

Sources within both FRNSW and the RFS believe union members could be the source of the leak. When asked yesterday the union did not deny that members could have been responsible.

FBEU state secretary Leighton Drury said the "excuses coming of

Noah Dean, Ms Dodd's stepson, said the location of the ignition appears to have been a clearing of powerlines that run down the hill from his friend's house on Reedy Swamp Rd. "It was just crazy windy," he said. "The power went out [about 12.30pm] and that was

TATHRA
RUGBY LEAGUE



We Scored:

1675+

~~1675+~~

-ALLSAFE

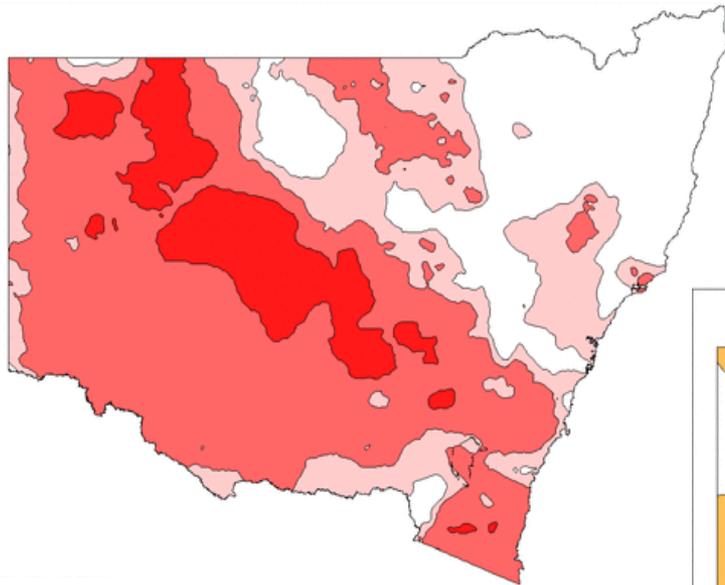


Early Start to the Fire Season

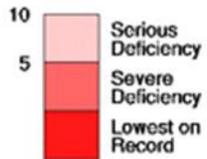
- NSW experienced unseasonably warm, dry and windy conditions in August.
- On August 15, wind gusts of greater than 100kph were experienced on the South Coast with periods of severe fire danger experienced in the Illawarra.
- Three fires elevated to Emergency Warning during the day (Shoalhaven and Bega Valley)
- Eight fires elevated to Watch and Act in Shoalhaven, Illawarra, Bega Valley, Hawkesbury, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley and Glen Innes.

2018 / 19 Fire Season Outlook

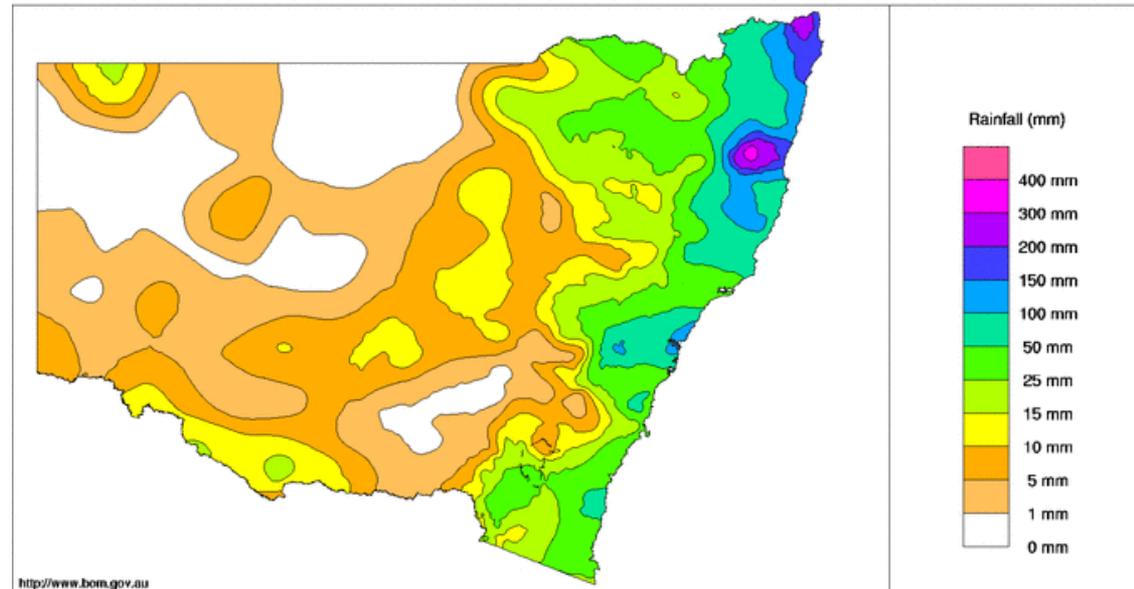
Rainfall Deficiencies 1 July to 30 Sept 2018



Rainfall Percentile Ranking



New South Wales Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 16th October 2018
Australian Bureau of Meteorology

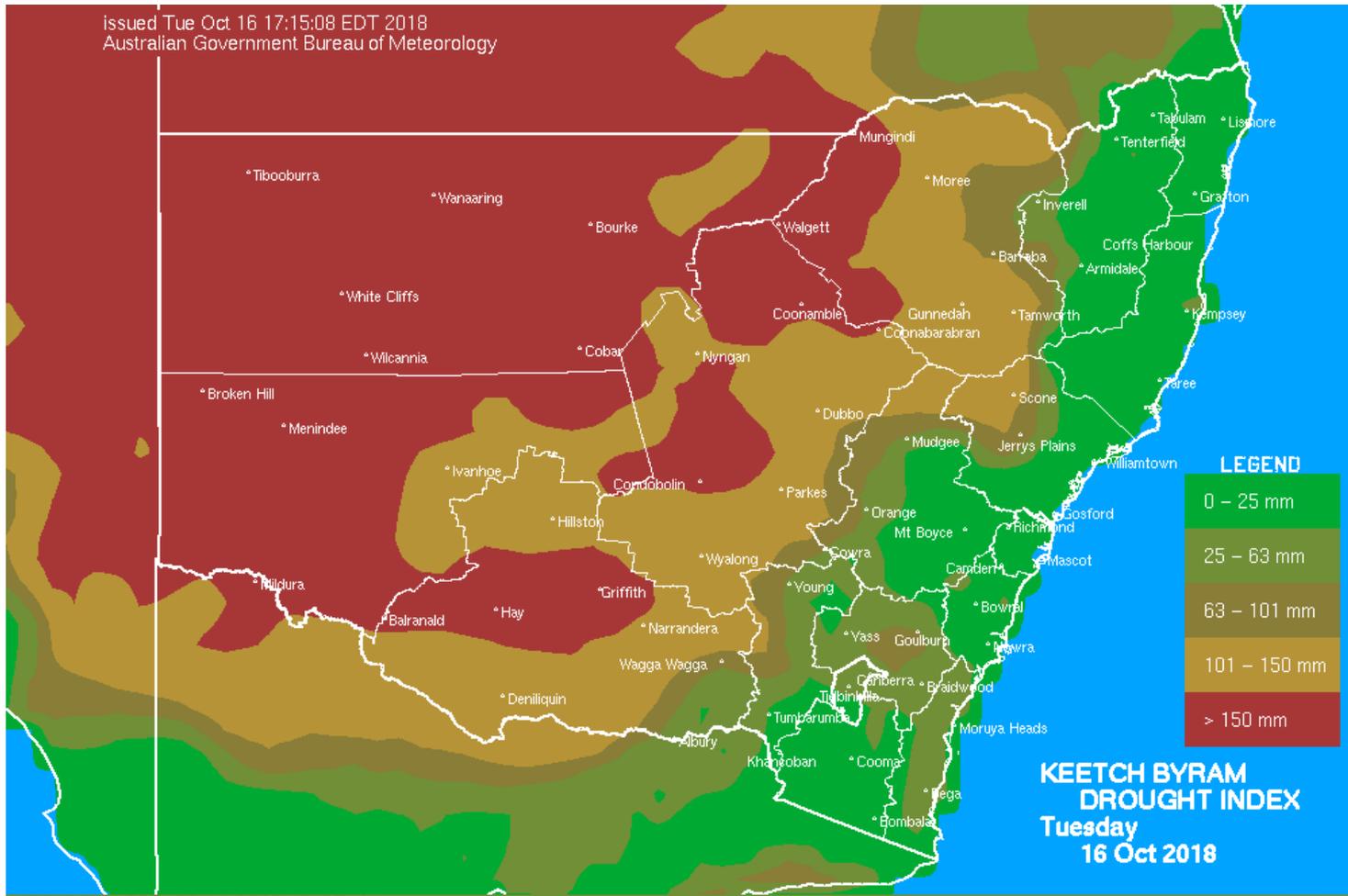


<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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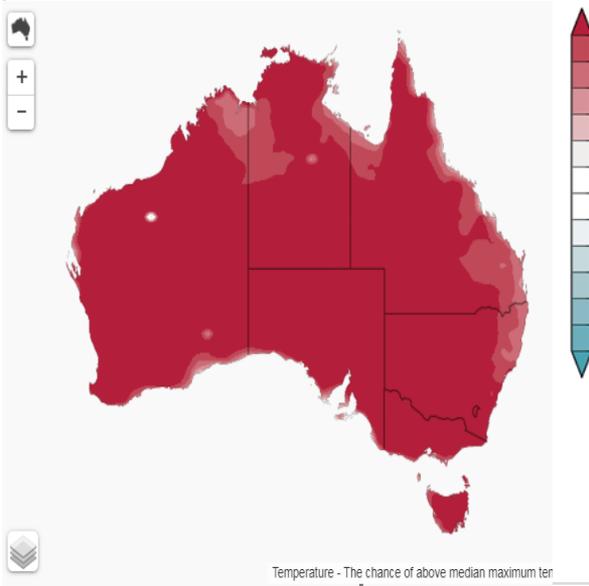
Issued: 16/10/2018

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)

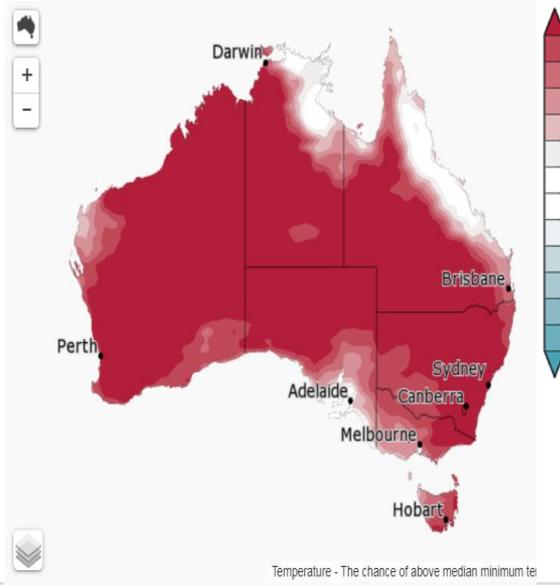


Climate Outlook: October – December

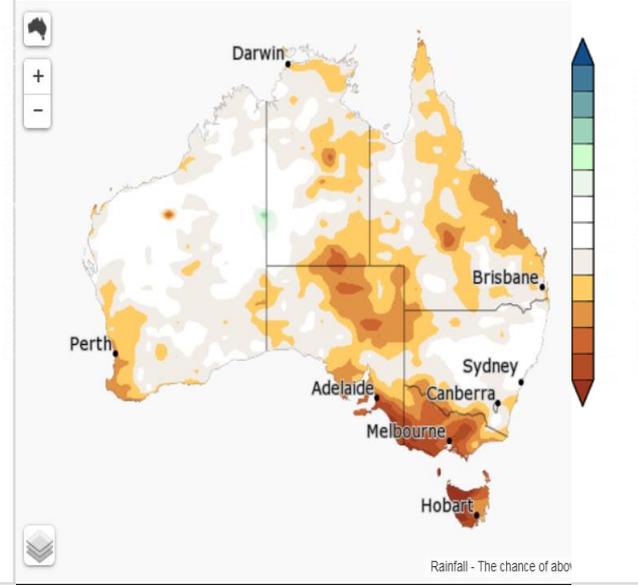
Maximum temperature



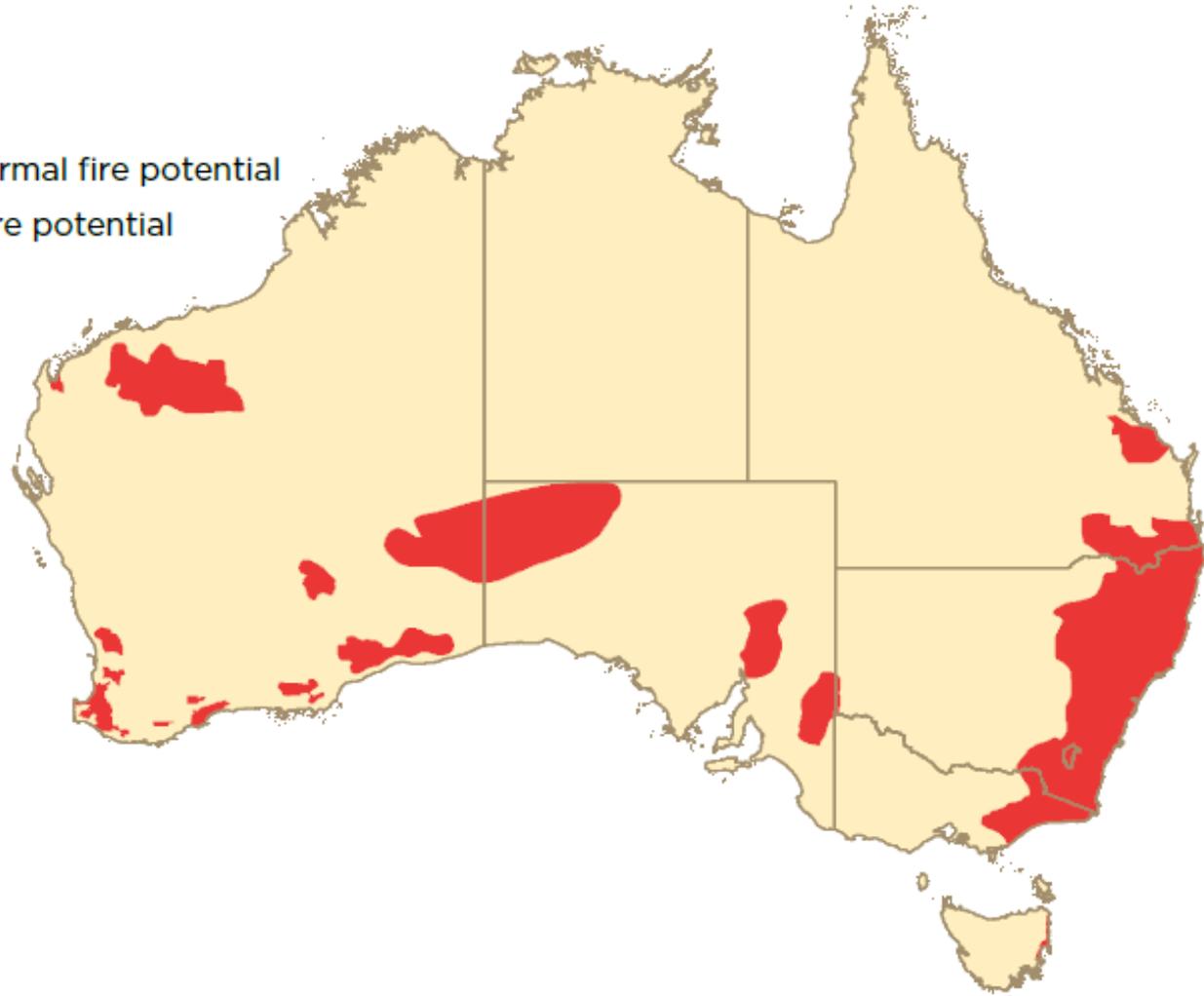
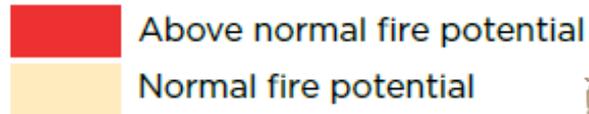
Minimum temperature



Rainfall



2018/19 BHNCRC Seasonal Outlook



2018/19 Season - Activity to Date

Summary 1 July – 5 October 2018	
Total Bush & Grass Fires	5,018
Total Hectares Burnt	118,943
Total Section 44 Declarations	5
Total Emergency Warnings	6
Total Days of Total Fire Ban	2

Large Air Tankers 2018/19

- The NSW RFS has contracted four LATs:
 - Avro RJ85 (operational)
 - C130Q (operational)
 - B737 Fireliner (01 November)
 - Avro RJ85 (01 November)
 - 2 x Rockwell Turbo Commanders (Lead Planes)
- RAAF Base Richmond (RJ85; Lead Plane; C130; B737)
- Dubbo Regional Airport (RJ85; Lead Plane)
- Retardant mixing and loading to be undertaken by trained NSW RFS field crews



Remote Area Firefighting Teams

- 30 Remote Area Units
 - 550 Remote Area Operators (firefighters)
- 92 trained in 2018
- Deployed 7 Remote Area Operators to USA (6 Week Deployment)
- Two additional Remote Area Units proposed for 2019



Rapid Aerial Response Teams (RART)

- 102 Standbys and 108 Callouts for RART in 2017/18
- Provides a rapid response to new fires before they grow
- The capability has also provided emergency support during larger fires such as real time intelligence, extractions and public warnings



'Down the Wire'

- 34 Volunteer DTW Technicians
- 31 Standbys in 2018
- Only Emergency Service in Australia to issue Certificate 3 in Aviation Rescue Crew



Trail Bikes

- 42 Riders across NSW
- Bikes based in southwest Sydney, Cooma, Glenn Innes and Mudgee
- 3 new units in 2019 in Hunter Valley, Cumberland and Blue Mountains
- Trail Bikes have been deployed out of area for rapid response, reconnaissance and patrol operation



Rescue

- One General Land Rescue RFB at Mungindi
- 12 locations in rural and remote areas identified by State Rescue Board review of Land Rescue Arrangements
- Ellerston and Moulamein RFBs have undertaken training in Road Crash Rescue



Matters of Interest : U-Turn Bays

- Use of U Turn facilities
 - Embargo on use of U-Turn bays commenced September 2016.
 - SEMC Sub Committee Chaired by Deputy Commissioner Rogers AFSM.
 - Recommendations made to the SEMC.
 - Recommendation to change some signage and conduct of risk assessment of posted U-Turn bays
 - The recommendations in the main were allocated for action by the SEMC to the Roads and Maritime Service.
 - RFS Commissioner continues to raise the matter

Matters of Interest : Online Brigade Reporting

- Launched in September
- New way in addition to the traditional for brigades to lodge fire reports to the NSW RFS.
- Has been developed in conjunction with the RFSA / RFS Operations Consultative Committee
- Tested by two trial districts (Illawarra, Canobolas) prior to 'go live'.
- Continue to improve and develop the way brigades interact to harness emerging technologies

Matters of Interest: Volunteer Availability App

- Brigades across the state are using a variety of programs and applications for operational membership management.
- A need for a standard application has been identified for state-wide use.
- NSW RFS is seeking a vendor to build an application that will integrate into existing operational and corporate systems.
- A procurement process is currently underway.
- The RFSA / RFS Operations Consultative Committee is a reference.

Matters of Interest: AVL Trial

- In conjunction with the NSW TELCO
- Utilises the enhanced eGRN rolling out across NSW
- NSW RFS has installed AVL over eGRN in three districts:
 - North West
 - Central Coast
 - Lake George
- Lessons learned from the trial will be incorporated as further state-wide rollouts are managed with NSW TELCO.

➤ Questions