



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



Mr Roger Bailey
General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council
PO Box 191
COONABARABRAN NSW 2357

Your ref:
Our ref: R18/3034

22 August 2018

Dear Mr Bailey

2018-19 ALLOCATIONS – NSW RURAL FIRE FIGHTING FUND

The Minister for Emergency Services, the Honourable Troy Grant MP, has approved allocations for the 2018-19 Rural Fire Fighting Fund which supports volunteer brigades who protect your local community.

Following amendments to the *Rural Fires Act 1997* during 2017, the statutory contribution by relevant Councils is now determined by reference to the 'rural fire brigade funding target' defined in section 103 of the Act. For 2018-19 the funding target is \$313.697 million, a reduction of 3.0% from the prior year.

In 2018-19 the Government continues its pre-existing commitment to the NSW Rural Fire Service including:

- \$38.0 million for mitigation and hazard reduction works;
- \$10.9 million for fire fighting equipment and personal protective equipment;
- \$33.2 million for new and refurbished tankers and other vehicles;
- \$19.9 million for volunteer brigade stations and Fire Control Centres; and
- \$3.2 million to repurpose Black Hawk helicopters provided by the Australian Defence Force for use by the NSW RFS.

The Office of State Revenue provided each Council with an Annual Assessment Notice that identified the amount of statutory contribution in respect of 2018-19 prior to 30 April 2018.

As previously advised, the NSW Rural Fire Service has moved to a percentage based allocation of the Rural Fire Fighting Fund. This has been used to determine the allocation by Council.

Shown at Appendix A is a schedule of key allocations including fire fighting appliances, infrastructure, equipment and grants that will be provided directly to your Council in the 2018-19 year. Attached at Appendix B, for relevant councils, is a schedule of approved Hazard Reduction works. Your attention to completing and claiming reimbursement for the outlined infrastructure works listed in Appendix A during the 2018-19 year is requested.

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Street address

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15 Carter Street
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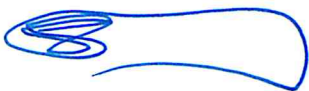
As in previous years, payments to Council for the Maintenance and Repairs grant will be made towards the end of the second quarter provided Council has made all Rural Fire Fighting Fund contributions due to the Office of State Revenue at that time.

Council will continue to receive ongoing additional support to Rural Fire Districts including:

- **Training and Volunteer Support**
Costs associated with volunteer relations including the cadets program, work health and safety programs for volunteers, critical incident support, Chaplaincy, learning and development, volunteer training and competency.
- **Fire Mitigation Works**
Bush fire mitigation works including the State Mitigation Support Services (SMSS) that operates across Local Government areas completing mitigation works, fire trail and hazard management works.
- **Insurances**
Volunteer workers compensation insurance and other insurances (excluding red fleet insurance).
- **Radio Communications**
Costs associated with communication assets, the private mobile radio network, the paging network and the Government Radio Network.
- **Emergency Fund**
Costs associated with responding to bush fire emergencies including out of area assistance.
- **Aviation and Other Operational Support**
Provision of the State Air Desk and aviation resources for emergency events, training and support of volunteers in aircraft operations and other operational support services such as Neighbourhood Safer Places, RART team and vulnerable communities support.
- **Engineering and Other Infrastructure**
Design and development of mobile infrastructure including tankers, other vehicles and fire fighting equipment. Insurance of the red fleet of fire fighting appliances. Development of designs and standards for the construction of brigade stations and fire control centres.
- **Communications and Public Awareness**
Management of media and corporate communications including the community advertising campaign, social media monitoring and provision of emergency messaging in emergency events.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Mr Stephen O'Malley, Executive Director, Finance and Executive Services on (02) 8741 5102 or at stephen.omalley@rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM
Commissioner

cc: NSW RFS District Manager
Mayor