



Steph Cooke

Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience
Minister for Flood Recovery

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 5 August 2022

NEW RFS HELICOPTER ON WATCH OVER THE WEST

Regional communities across western NSW will be better protected during emergencies with a new multi-purpose NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) helicopter unveiled at Dubbo.

Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience and Minister for Flood Recovery Steph Cooke and Member for the Dubbo electorate Dugald Saunders joined RFS Commissioner Rob Rogers at the Royal Flying Doctor Service's Dubbo base today to launch the \$6 million helicopter.

"This is the first time the RFS has permanently based a helicopter in Dubbo, representing a significant boost to emergency response capabilities across the Central West of NSW," Ms Cooke said.

"The RFS responds to a wide range of natural disasters and other hazards, so having this helicopter ready for action will keep our communities safer and stronger."

Mr Saunders said today's announcement delivers on a commitment made by the NSW Government in November 2021.

"The NSW Government is committed to ensuring the RFS is fully equipped with the latest technology to respond in an emergency, whether it be for firefighting, search and rescue, or flood support," Mr Saunders said.

RFS Commissioner Rob Rogers said the helicopter will be a great boost for first responders during emergencies.

"We are glad to be able to provide a base that will strengthen the aerial capabilities for all emergency services seven days a week, all year round," Commissioner Rogers said.

"With any emergency, time is of the essence and the Dubbo base is well positioned to aid efficient multi-agency responses in some of the most remote parts of our State.

"I also want to acknowledge the assistance of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in providing a temporary base for the helicopter and crew facilities, as well as Dubbo Regional Council for their ongoing support to this and other NSW aviation assets at the Airport."

MEDIA: Jack Douglas | 0457 751 406