



# Stuart Ayres MP

Minister for Police and Emergency Services  
Minister for Sport and Recreation  
Minister Assisting the Premier on Western Sydney

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Friday 28 November 2014

### WORK COMMENCES ON NEW MENAI RURAL FIRE STATION

The start of a new era for local NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) firefighters was marked today as the first sod was turned on the new Menai Station.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Stuart Ayres said the new \$1.4 million station would provide the Menai Rural Fire Brigade with a state-of-the-art firefighting and training facility.

“The NSW Government is committed to ensuring the safety of the people of NSW and to providing our firefighters with the best possible equipment and resources so they can get on with the job they do best,” Mr Ayres said.

“This work will see Menai RFS brought up to modern standards with the ability to continue its work in keeping the local community safe.”

NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Stuart Midgley said new station will be a welcome addition for volunteers.

“This will be a brand new, first class facility that will provide a tremendous boost to the Menai RFB members, as well as the local community,” Assistant Commissioner Midgley said.

“Our volunteers are committed to helping their communities 24 hours a day, seven days a week and this new station will assist them to carry out that important work.”

The new Menai station will feature a purpose-built operation and administration office, training room, storeroom, workshop, kitchen, amenities and an outdoor terrace.

Construction of the new station at 128 Old Illawarra Road, Barden Ridge, is due to commence in December 2014 with completion expected mid-2015.

It will replace the current station which was originally built in 1946 and extended in 1956.

Member for Menai Melanie Gibbons said the local brigade has played a significant role in the community for more than 74 years.

“With the Sutherland Shire experiencing major bush fire in 1994, 1997, 2001 and 2002 I’ve seen first-hand the incredible work of the Menai brigade,” Ms Gibbons said.

“To see work commence today is a great moment for the Menai community.”

**MEDIA: John Redman – 0400 298 929**