



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Bush Fire Season ends for NSW

30 April 2023

Today marks the end of the 2022-2023 Bush Fire Season for New South Wales.

Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers said the Bush Fire Danger Period was extended for several weeks from the end of March in parts of the state due to high fuel loads and warmer than average temperatures.

“We saw an increase in activity late in the season, with significant fires in Narrabri, Mudgee and Upper Lachlan LGAs,” he said.

“Across the season, firefighters have worked on more than 24,800 bush and grass fires which burnt through over 116,000 hectares.

“March was our busiest month, with firefighters responding to over 2800 incidents, which accounted for almost 50% of the total hectares burnt across the whole fire season.

“We also sadly saw the loss of eight homes, 15 outbuildings and hundreds of livestock across firegrounds, however hundreds more homes and buildings were saved due to the actions of firefighters and landholders.

“Whilst the bush fire season has ended, this doesn’t mean the risk of fire has, with the shift from recent wet weather to drier conditions already being seen across much of NSW.”

Commissioner Rogers also reminded landholders and residents about the importance of maintaining their property throughout the year and to be vigilant when using fire on their property.

“With a warm and dry winter predicted, there is a real risk of fires occurring across the cooler months this year,” he said.

“Landholders must know their obligations if conducting burns and know the costs if you do the wrong thing, but most importantly, if a fire does get out of hand, make sure you report it immediately to Triple Zero (000).”

Commissioner Rogers noted that the 2022-2023 fire season has been the busiest period of fire activity since the 2019-2020 Black Summer fires.

“Over two very wet years, our members worked tirelessly alongside other agencies to assist the NSW State Emergency Service responding to flood and storm events,” he said.

“I would like to thank each and every RFS volunteer for their hard work and dedication to communities across New South Wales.”

“Our volunteers could also not do what they do without the support and encouragement of families, friends, colleagues and employers and so I thank them as well.”

**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855**  
**For current incidents or major fire updates visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)**