

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## Commissioner congratulates long-standing volunteer firefighters

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NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has praised the ongoing dedication of Lithgow's Rural Fire Brigade members, noting their steadfast commitment to the community.

At a ceremony held in their honour, Commissioner Fitzsimmons presented the 27 volunteers with Long Service Medals paying tribute to their hard work and professionalism.

"As we saw just this weekend with the devastating service station fire, our members are called upon night and day to respond to all manner of emergencies. Whether it's structure fires, traffic accidents or assisting other emergency services when needed, their level of commitment is unsurpassable," said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

"Despite recent bush fire seasons being unseasonably quiet, everyone in the Lithgow area knows how daunting the threat of bush fires can be – and our volunteers work tirelessly to help the community remain well prepared.

"Many of the members being recognised tonight have been serving with their brigades for 20 or more years, which is an admirable accomplishment".

During the official proceedings, Commissioner Fitzsimmons made particular mention of the four members celebrating more than 40 years service.

"Like everyone here tonight, Jim Commens, Pat Hennessy, Bob Terry and Colin Ferguson have all played an integral role in the protection of their communities. As well as being pivotal members of their brigades during operational activity – these men have committed time and expertise to the upkeep of fire equipment and vehicles, as well as ensuring fire trails and rural properties are suitably maintained.

"Their unwavering and dependable approach to community service is nothing short of inspiring.

"The members of the NSW Rural Fire Service are driven by their commitment to helping others in times of emergency, and I would personally like to thank those here tonight for their efforts".

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