



RFS

Media release

Tamworth firefighters honoured as region receives \$2 million boost

20 July 2025

New firefighting trucks will be handed over to the Tamworth area and more than 45 NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers recognised at a ceremony in Westdale today.

Superintendent Paul Metcalfe will be joined by special guests at the Tamworth Fire Control Centre to present 49 Long Service Medals to volunteers with combined service of more than 1,800 years.

“Today is an opportunity to recognise the hard work and incredible contribution of all RFS volunteers across the region, particularly those who have dedicated decades of service,” Superintendent Metcalfe said.

“Every single one of these members should be proud of themselves and their commitment to protecting local communities, including Charles May and John Thrift who are both being recognised for 60 years’ service.

“Charles with Nundle Brigade and John with Bendemeer, both men have held numerous leadership roles in their brigades.

“The medals we present them with today are a testament to their enduring commitment and selfless service to the people of New South Wales.”

Superintendent Metcalfe said today’s ceremony also includes the handover of six firefighting vehicles to Bendemeer, Loomberah, Halls Creek, Limbri and Moree Creek brigades.

“It’s important RFS members have access to modern firefighting technology when preparing for and responding to fires and other incidents,” he said.

“These new trucks, with a combined value of more than \$2 million, will enable the brigades to strengthen their firefighting efforts in the local area.

“The efforts of RFS volunteers do not go unnoticed and today’s event provides a great opportunity to publicly acknowledge the outstanding work of our thousands of volunteer bush firefighters, who are available to serve their communities 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”