



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Medal honours at \$2.1 million official opening of Cobar Fire Control Centre

12 May 2022

Members of the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Far West Team have been recognised for their dedicated service during the 2019-20 fire season at the official opening of the Cobar Fire Control Centre.

Deputy Commissioner Peter McKechnie presented the National Emergency Medal to 17 NSW RFS members today (Thursday 12 May) for those who provided sustained or significant service during the devastating 2019-20 fire season.

The medal is awarded to those whose service were in the protection of lives and property or in the service of interests that are not their own and who supported the emergency response for a minimum of five days between September 2019 and February 2020.

Members of the Far West Team rose to the challenge with more than 120 deployments across the state – from the Northern Rivers to the Far South Coast – to assist local brigades.

Deputy Commissioner McKechnie praised the hard work and incredible contribution of brigade members across the region.

“Every single one of these members should be proud of themselves and their dedication to protecting communities across the state,” Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said.

“They stood side-by-side with their fellow firefighters across NSW and faced fierce blazes during one of the most destructive fire seasons in recent memory. It is important to have these volunteers on deck to mentor and guide the younger generation joining the Service.”

To boost the region’s firefighting capabilities, Deputy Commissioner McKechnie and Cobar Council General Manager Peter Vlatko were on hand to open the refurbished \$2.1 million Cobar Fire Control Centre.

The upgrade to the facility commenced in September 2021 in two stages as staff continued to operate in an existing part of the building while the new section was under construction.

“The state-of-the-art facility includes an improved emergency operations centre, specialised training room, upgraded kitchen space, front office and reception area,” Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said.

“This facility upgrade is worth \$2.1 million but to our brigade members and community, it’s a priceless resource.”



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