



Steph Cooke

Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience

Ben Franklin

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

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****Images available to download [here](#)*

NEW PIN RECOGNISING RFS INDIGENOUS VOLUNTEERS

The contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander volunteers make to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has been highlighted today, with a new Indigenous pin unveiled at a ceremony in Gunnedah.

Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience Steph Cooke said the symbolic pin highlights the experience and knowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members bring to the RFS.

“The RFS is continuing to strengthen its important and collaborative work with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island members, as well as the wider community, with a range of initiatives helping to improve bush fire preparedness,” Ms Cooke said.

“From all-Indigenous mitigation crews, to the unique artwork displayed on the Boggabilla and Wreck Bay Brigade trucks, this pin is another way we can celebrate and recognise our Indigenous volunteers.”

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Ben Franklin said the pin recognises the history and future of Indigenous culture within the RFS.

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made invaluable contributions to our communities, particularly through volunteer organisations, and this pin acknowledges their bravery, their commitment and the importance of Indigenous culture to the RFS,” Mr Franklin said.

RFS Commissioner Rob Rogers said 10,000 Indigenous pins would be produced for members to wear, featuring the Service crest, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags.

“The NSW RFS values the experiences and knowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and members bring to the Service. Every day across the NSW RFS you will find us working side by side, sharing knowledge, experience and culture with Indigenous communities,” Commissioner Rogers said.

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