



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **First soil of Hunter Valley Fire Control Centre turned**

**05 August 2014**

The start of a new era for local NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) firefighters was marked today as the NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Bruce McDonald officially turned the first soil of the new Hunter Valley Fire Control Centre.

During the ceremony Assistant Commissioner McDonald explained how the improved facilities will assist in the effective management of fires and other emergencies throughout the Hunter Valley area.

“This will be a brand new, first class facility that will be a focal point for operations, logistics and community information,” Assistant Commissioner McDonald said.

“The new facility will house purpose built offices, training rooms and storage facilities as well as a state of the art operations room which will aid Emergency Services to better coordinate the response to major fires and incidents in the area.

“I have no doubt that the construction of this new Fire Control Centre will provide a tremendous boost to volunteers, as well as the local community.

“Once finished, these facilities will allow our 1300 volunteers amongst the 33 Brigades in this area, access to the latest technology and equipment whilst they assist their local communities in times of need.

“Our volunteers are committed to helping their communities at any time of the day or night, and these new facilities will assist them in that important work.”

“I’d also like to thank Xstrata Coal, who generously provided the 4.7 hectare site for the new Fire Control Centre.

It is estimated the new \$3.6 million facility will be completed in December 2014.