



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Blaxland Ridge Brigade celebrates station extension**

**3 March 2018**

Celebrations were held today for Blaxland Ridge Rural Fire Brigade when Member for Riverstone Mr Kevin Conolly MP and NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM officially declared the extension of their station open.

Mr Conolly said the extension is the culmination of a number of years of hard work by brigade members.

“This station is a testament to how diligently and tirelessly the Blaxland Ridge Brigade volunteers have worked to turn their dream of the new facilities into a reality,” Mr Conolly said.

“This stations extension is a milestone for the dedicated volunteers, who have contributed through fundraising to the cost of the work done.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the extension features four trucks bays, workshop, office, kitchen, bathroom amenities, mezzanine storage area, meeting room and carpark.

“The Brigade has also welcomed the installation of a 120,000 litre in-ground water tank that will be used by the station and for firefighting purposes,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“The \$162,000 facility was funded by the NSW Rural Fire Fighting Fund and the fundraising efforts of the Blaxland Ridge Brigade.

“I sincerely thank Hawkesbury City Council, a principal partner who along with the NSW Government make sure our brigades and members are suitably equipped with the facilities and equipment needed to look after our communities.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the Blaxland Ridge Brigade has protected the local community since it officially formed in the 1960s.

“The need for more room has highlighted the steady increase in Brigade membership and commitment to the Hawkesbury region,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“Today, members of this Brigade continue to protect their community from bush fires as well as a diverse array of incidents including structure and vehicle fires, motor vehicle accidents and assisting in search and rescue.

“These men and women remain on-hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week and we should be extremely proud and grateful for their contribution.

“I would like to take this time to praise all our volunteers for their ongoing efforts each and every day, particularly when dealing with emergencies here in the Hawkesbury District.”

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