



# RFS

## Media release

### **\$1.1 million truck investment and honours for north-west NSW**

**3 July 2024**

The Namoi Gwydir District will receive new firefighting vehicles and more than 60 NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers recognised for their service at three ceremonies in north-west NSW this week.

Celebrations kick off tonight when RFS Deputy Commissioner, Kyle Stewart APM, is joined by Stephen Lawrence MLC and special guests in Narrabri for the presentation of 24 Long Service Medals and handover of two new firefighting trucks.

“With years of service ranging from 10 to 62 years, many of these volunteers have dedicated a significant portion of their life to protecting others,” Deputy Commissioner Stewart said.

“They include Group Captain Bill Pownall who has given 60 years of service to the Wallah Brigade and local community.

“I am also pleased to handover a new Category 1 fire truck, which has the capacity to carry 3,500 litres of water, to the Narrabri Brigade, and a Category 7 truck that has capability to hold more than 1,100 litres of water, to the Tibbereena Brigade.”

Bingara will host the second event tomorrow when Deputy Commissioner Stewart will award 31 Long Service Medals and hand over new Category 7 truck to the Oakey Brigade.

Deputy Commissioner Stewart said the final event will also be held tomorrow in Moree, when Ashley Brigade’s 20th anniversary will be celebrated, a new Category 7 fire truck handed over to the Boggabilla Brigade, and 14 volunteers recognised with long service medals.

“Among the medal recipients will be Stuart Boydell who has been a committed and respected member of the Tyreel Brigade since joining the RFS in 1962,” he said.

“Stuart has held the position of Captain for the past 59 years and is a worthy recipient of the 60 years Long Service Medal and 5th Clasp.

“His professionalism and dedication have not gone unnoticed and while he and other volunteers don’t do the work they do for praise, events like those this week provide us with an opportunity to acknowledge his commitment and that of all our volunteers.”

A total of \$1.1 million has been invested by the RFS in the four new vehicles handed over to the Namoi Gwydir District brigades this week.

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Mr Lawrence said its important RFS members have access to modern firefighting technology when preparing for and responding to fires and other incidents.

“Many RFS members go above and beyond for their brigades and local community, and it is fitting to recognise the dedication they all show,” Mr Lawrence said.

“I also acknowledge those who support volunteers in what they do - the family, friends, employers and colleagues. We know it takes their ongoing support and patience to assist and enable our volunteers to do what they do to save lives and protect property.”