



RFS

Media release

Multi-million-dollar boost for Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area

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Firefighting capabilities and support to better protect residents in south-western NSW and the food bowl in the Riverina, have received a \$3.9 million boost.

NSW Rural Fire Service Chief Superintendent Kelwyn White will this week officially open two new brigade stations and upgraded training facility, handover five firefighting trucks, and recognise more than 160 volunteers in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA).

“The celebrations begin tonight with the presentation of 39 Long Service Medals and five National Medals to volunteers with a combined service of more than 1,600 years,” Chief Superintendent White said.

“That’s an incredible amount of time these volunteers have devoted to protecting their local communities, including three with 70 or more years of service - Lex McKenzie with 74 years, Sydney Wade with 72 years, and Patrick Flanagan who’s in his 70th year.

“These ceremonies are an opportunity to recognise the hard work and incredible contribution of our members who should all be proud of their commitment.”

Five firefighting trucks will also be handed over to the Conapaira West, Carrathool Town, Grong Grong, Tubbo and Hanwood Rural Fire Brigades this weekend.

“It’s important RFS members have access to modern firefighting technology when preparing for and responding to fires and other incidents,” Chief Superintendent White said.

“These new vehicles, with a combined value of more than \$1.7 million, include galvanised steel tanks, electric hose reels and the latest crew protection systems, that will enable the brigades to strengthen their firefighting efforts in the local area.”

Chief Superintendent White will cap off a big week for the MIA, officially opening new brigade stations at Landervale and Kooba, and the upgraded District Training Centre at Bilbul.

“Both stations boast two truck bays, training room, kitchen, storeroom and bathroom facilities, while the extension to the MIA Training Centre features a special room to simulate smoke-filled structures, compressed air breathing apparatus (CABA) compressor room, and training room,” she said.

“This significant investment of more than \$2.2 million will not only ensure our members are even better equipped and supported to protect their local communities, but the training facility is also available to community groups to utilise.