



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **New England Aviation Brigade opens Airbase**

**19 July 2016**

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) New England Zone celebrated the official opening of a new Airbase facility at Armidale Airport.

NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Rebel Talbert officially declared their new Airbase facility open today.

Assistant Commissioner Talbert said it's the beginning of a new era for the New England Aviation Rural Fire Brigade as the new Airbase facility will enable volunteers to provide an even greater level of protection to their local community.

"The new facility, with purpose built offices, a repair workshop, a storage facility as well as an operations room and tanker bay will aid the New England Aviation Brigade to better coordinate the response to major fires and incidents in the area.

"The NSW RFS is committed to providing volunteer firefighters with the equipment they need to carry out the important work they do to protect their local communities from fire," Assistant Commissioner Talbert said.

"The New England Aviation brigade is understandably thrilled that they now have the space to comfortably manage and support aerial firefighting across the New England.

"I'd also like to thank the Armidale Regional Council who generously contributed towards the construction of this important community asset."

"The NSW RFS is at the cutting edge of bush firefighting due to significant improvements in technology, training, equipment and communications, however the real strength of the Service is its people," Assistant Commissioner Talbert said.

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**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on (02) 9898 1855.  
For current incidents or major fire updates visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)**

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