

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## **New facilities provide major boost for volunteers in the Bland Temora area**

**9 February 2012**

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has congratulated volunteers in the Bland Temora area on the significant upgrade to their Emergency Services facilities.

At the formal opening of the Bland Fire Control Centre and West Wyalong Headquarters Brigade Station, Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the resources would be a tremendous boost for the local community.

“The development of these first class buildings demonstrates the communities support for their local RFS brigades. I have no doubt that both facilities will build on the brigades' commitment to protecting their community from fire.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons went on to say that the new complex is a credit to the local community and an asset they can be extremely proud of.

“These facilities are a community asset and a focal point for operations, logistics and community information.

“The new Fire Control Centre, brigade station and storage area have been relocated to a site that can accommodate all of our operations under one roof. The facility is shared with the NSW State Emergency Service, which will further enhance communication between the region's emergency services.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons also paid tribute to eight volunteers from the West Wyalong Headquarters Brigade who were presented with Long Service Medals at the opening.

“I'd like to thank and acknowledge the support of volunteers' family and loved ones, if it were not for their sacrifice our volunteers wouldn't be able to serve their community.

“Between them, the volunteers being recognised here today have amassed more than 170 years of service with the NSW RFS. They have all played an integral role in their community by attending numerous bush, grass and structure fires as well as road accidents over the years.

“This is an achievement they can all be very proud of and these dedicated members should be commended on the commitment they have shown in serving their local community.

“The opening of this Fire Control Centre and brigade station reinforces the strong partnership that exists between the NSW RFS with state and local governments,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons concluded.