



**Troy Grant**  
Minister for Emergency Services

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **SCHOOL'S OUT FOR RFS CADETS**

The next generation of firefighters have taken the State by storm this year, with 56 groups completing the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) Secondary Schools Cadet Program.

Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant said this year, 850 students aged 12 to 16 graduated from the statewide program, run in conjunction with schools and community groups.

“The 10 week program is one of our longest running and most successful youth programs, in which local fire services partner with schools to deliver practical skills,” Mr Grant said.

“The program is delivered by more than 200 volunteers and staff across the state, and offers an appreciation of emergency service volunteering through a structured training package.

“Students also learn about fire safety, firefighting skills, communications and community involvement in a safe environment.

“It teaches them about the importance of teamwork and leadership – valuable lessons they can take into adulthood.”

RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said many graduating students put their skills to use upon graduation by joining Rural Fire Brigades across the state.

“The program is a great training ground for these young members because they learn how to use all of the equipment that you find in a fire brigade station,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“When these students join brigades, they continue to learn and build upon the teamwork and camaraderie they’ve developed.

“Attracting a new generation to the ranks also ensures the NSW RFS can continue delivering its service well into the future.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said over the last decade, more than 10,000 school students have graduated from the program.

“Now a fixed part of the curriculum for many schools across the state, the NSW RFS Secondary Schools Cadet Program will continue to benefit students, fire services and the community,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said

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