



David Elliott
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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ROB ROGERS TO BECOME NEW RFS COMMISSIONER

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott has announced Rob Rogers as the new NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner, following 40 years as a member and nine years as Deputy Commissioner, serving in the latter role during the 2019-20 'Black Summer' bushfire season.

Joining as a volunteer in 1979, Mr Rogers has a decorated career within the RFS, holding a number of senior leadership roles including regional management, community safety and operations.

"Rob Rogers has the outstanding credentials necessary to lead more than 70,000 dedicated RFS volunteers that we depend on when bushfires threaten life and property," Mr Elliott said.

"As Executive Director of Operations during our most devastating bushfire season, Mr Rogers oversaw the response to more than 11,400 bush and grass fires that burnt more than 5.5 million hectares, destroyed 2,448 homes and tragically took 25 lives."

Mr Rogers has also been involved in the leadership of the National Fire Danger Rating review, the enhancement of a state-wide Fire Behaviour Analysis capability and the development of a strategic network for fire trails across NSW. He was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2004.

Mr Elliott thanked outgoing Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons for more than twelve years' meritorious service leading the world's biggest volunteer firefighting organisation.

"I don't think there's a single person who would disagree that Commissioner Fitzsimmons' leadership was a beacon of hope during our State's darkest hour," Mr Elliott said.

"I am pleased we will continue to benefit from Mr Fitzsimmons' extensive experience and knowledge as ends his term with the RFS and begins as Commissioner of Resilience NSW."

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