

Tuesday, 22 June 2021

RECORD BUDGET INVESTMENT TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency services and communities will be better prepared for disaster, with another record \$1.9 billion budget in 2021-22 across the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS), Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW), and NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES).

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott said the record investment of \$930 million for FRNSW and \$240 million for NSW SES reflected the Government's continued focus on safeguarding lives, property and supporting emergency management personnel.

The Budget includes more than \$75 million over four years for the Stay Safe and Keep Operational program across emergency services, which will support the communication requirements of the emergency services agencies in areas not serviced by the Government Radio Network.

Fire and Rescue NSW will benefit from a nearly \$23 million investment over four years for the rollout of new firefighting personal protective clothing.

Almost \$12 million will be spent over two years for the completion of FRNSW fire stations at Marsden Park and Oran Park, including trucks and equipment for each station.

"The record investment reaffirms the NSW Government's commitment to supporting first responders who have dedicated themselves to keeping communities across NSW safe," Mr Elliott said.

"The NSW Government will continue to do everything in its power to protect the communities from bushfires, storms, floods, structural fires and other emergencies."

The funding also includes an additional \$268 million to continue the implementation of the recommendations of the NSW Independent Bushfire Inquiry, building on more than \$192 million already announced since the 2019-20 bushfire season.

The funding package includes:

- More than \$48 million for fleet replacement and vehicle safety retrofits for frontline firefighting agencies;
- \$16 million for additional NSW RFS crews for hazard reduction and mitigation works;
- More than \$34 million to accelerate the delivery of the strategic fire trails network;
- More than \$18 million over two years to enhance coordination between emergency services, helping to fast-track integrated call and dispatch at FRNSW;

- More than \$17 million over two years to operationalise two black hawk helicopters and to replace an existing NSW RFS helicopter;
- \$20 million over two years for NSW RFS to upgrade Fire Control Centres, Emergency Operations Centres, and Station/Neighbourhood Safe Places;
- Nearly \$7 million to enhance firefighter safety through fire ground tracking, training and accreditation of heavy plant machinery over four years; and
- More than \$5 million to acquire additional drones for firefighting operations by FRNSW.

The NSW RFS will benefit from a \$686 million budget in 2021-22, that will ensure it has the resources required to provide a world leading bushfire response capability.

The Budget also includes almost \$790 million for Resilience NSW to coordinate and oversee whole-of-government disaster management, recovery, and build resilience to disasters.

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