



## A COMMITMENT FOR STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE NSW RFS AND FARMING COMMUNITIES

- Rural and farming communities were instrumental to the formation of the NSW RFS – and a strong and trusting relationship is critical for the ongoing safety of the community, and the future of volunteering in many areas.
- NSW RFS intends to strengthen relevant and meaningful relationships with NSW farming communities.
- The intent is to identify a way forward that promotes a shared understanding, collaboration and respect for rural communities, and recognising the important work that farmers do in the management of fire.
- Trusting and ongoing relationships with farmers and NSW RFS are critical to ensuring safer communities.

### OBJECTIVES

- Improved collaboration and communication during emergency events
- NSW RFS to work with farmers and their communities across NSW to develop a shared understanding of risk, response plans and capability
- NSW RFS Districts and Brigades to effectively engage with farmers and always promote locally led ideas and solutions

### COMMIT

- Establish a formal commitment piece with representative bodies
- Identify priority areas of focus for the development of mutually beneficial projects and initiatives
- Publicly launch and share the commitment across NSW (e.g. branding and application to relevant programs)

### PARTNER

- Understanding our past to enable our future
- Leverage and enhance existing engagement, including through BFCC and BFMCs
- Establish agreed process to bring together knowledge, to develop, formalise, endorse and prioritise programs (statewide and local)
- Develop a shared strategy to communicate initiatives and benefits

### OUTCOMES

- Strong, trusted and sustainable relationships at all levels, that deliver meaningful outcomes for the community
- Across NSW RFS Districts and Brigades, people understand their role, contribution and value to the community
- Transparency of what we have committed to do, what we have done and what was the result

### INITIATIVES

#### STATEWIDE

- Deliver agreed initiatives such as Farm Fire Units and Rural Liaison Officers
- Jointly develop and endorse a state level engagement strategy
- Review and measure outcomes of engagement activities
- Develop a framework to support local initiatives and engagement
- Explore opportunities to develop alternative membership models to further engage landholder membership
- Agree on future operating model for incident management to meet farmer and RFS needs

#### LOCAL

- Strengthen local engagement through BFMCs
- Prioritise the attraction and retention of local membership
- Develop local engagement plans