



# **NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE AND BRIGADES DONATIONS FUND**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020**

ABN: 88 311 702 546

## Document control

### Release history

HPE Ref	Date	Author	Summary of changes
DOC20/33132	September 2020	Dianne Kelly	Initial version

### Reviewed by

Name	Title	Date
Susan Greenwood	Manager, Audit and Committees	16/10/2020
Debbie Andreatta	Director, Executive Services	

### Endorsed by

Name	At	Date
The Trustees	Meeting 48 Decision Number 48.13	22 October 2020

### Related documents

Document name	Reference
Trust Deed NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund (10 April 2012)	DOC17/1292
Deed of Amendment (20 June 2013)	DOC17/1293
Deed of Resignation and Appointment of Trustee (template)	DOC18/59615
NSW Rural Fire Service and Brigades Donations Fund Governance and Operations Policy with Standard Operating Procedures	DOC18/123011[v5]
NSW Rural Fire Service and Brigades Donations Fund Charter	DOC18/88253[v3]
Service Level Agreement between New South Wales Rural Fire Service and NSW Rural Fire Service and Brigades Donations Fund	DOC17/1228[v3]
NSW Rural Fire Service and Brigades Donations Fund Code of Conduct	DOC17/1233

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# 1 About the Fund

The NSW Rural Fire Service and Brigades Donations Fund (the Trust) is a public fund established by Deed on 10 April 2012. It was founded by the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) to assist rural fire brigades to manage changes to Australian tax law, which came into effect in 2012.

Changes to tax laws meant brigades needed to choose one of two options:

1. Establish, with approval from the Australian Tax Office (ATO), their own Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) fund which will enable them to receive tax deductible donations; or
2. Use a central Public Fund, established by the NSW RFS, allowing brigades to receive tax-deductible donations without the costs and compliance issues of managing their own fund.

Brigades could also choose not to have DGR status, which meant any donations to the brigade, would not be tax deductible for the donor.

A Deed of Amendment approved by Trustees on 20 June 2013 provided some definitional clarifications.

## 1.1 Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the Trust is to make available to brigades the ability to accept tax-deductible donations, both in person and online, with as little administrative burden as possible. It was established and is operated solely for the purpose of supporting the volunteer-based fire and emergency service activities of the brigades.

Further, the Trust, as described in the Deed, is to pay or apply the income or capital from the Trust Fund, and such parts of the capital from the Trust Fund as the Trustees at any time and from time to time think fit as follows:

- To or for the brigades in order to enable them or assist them to meet the costs of purchasing and maintaining firefighting equipment and facilities, providing training and resources and/ or to otherwise meet the administrative expenses of the brigades which are associated with their volunteer-based fire and emergency service activities
- For authorised investments which are consistent with carrying out the purpose described in the bullet point above
- To meet the reasonable costs of the current and continuing operation and management of the Trust.

## 1.2 Contact Details

The contact details for the Trust during the reporting period were as follows:

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund  
C/- 4 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127  
Tel: 02 8741 5519  
Email [dgr@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dgr@rfs.nsw.gov.au)

The ABN for the Trust is 88 311 702 546

# 2 Governance

Governance and control is outlined in the:

- Trust Deed dated 10 April 2012 and Deed of Amendment dated 20 June 2013
- NSW Rural Fire Service and Brigades Donations Fund Governance and Operations Policy with Standard Operating Procedures v5.0
- NSW Rural Fire Service and Brigades Donations Fund Charter v3.0
- NSW Rural Fire Service and Brigades Donations Fund Code of Conduct

- Service Level Agreement between the New South Wales Rural Fire Service and NSW Rural Fire Service and Brigades Donations Fund (SLA)
- Trust Fund Risk Register v2.0
- Deed of Resignation and Appointment of Trustee (template)
- Several Fact Sheets

The Trust is registered and lodges financial reports with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

The Trust consists of six trustees whose profiles are provided in Section 7 *Profiles of the Trustees* on Page 7.

The Trust has previously operated on a schedule of quarterly meetings, however due to the significant donations received over the 2019/2020 bush fire season has met fortnightly since February 2020. The Trust has an elected Chair. The Trust receives financial, administrative and secretariat support from the NSW RFS under the terms of the SLA. The meeting agenda is drawn from a Forward Agenda Plan developed to ensure that commitments outlined in the Trust's Deed, guidance documents and associated financial obligations are addressed.

### 3 Trust Activities

Trust activities carried out during the 2019/2020 financial year were as follows:

- The Trustees monitored the implementation of previously approved projects, in particular the Trust's investment in Hot Fire Training Facilities and training aids
- Findings from the 2019 Trust Performance Assessment were adopted at Meeting 31 on 24 October 2019
- Managed the Audit of the Trust's Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the 2018/2019 financial year – the final report was endorsed at Meeting 31 on 24 October 2019
- Managed the Audit of Brigade Compliance with Deductible Gift Recipient Compliance (for the 2018/2019 financial year) and communicated the outcomes to the Commissioner of the NSW RFS and member brigades – the final report was endorsed at Meeting 32 on 16 January 2020
- The Annual Information Statement, Trust Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the 2018/2019 reporting period was submitted to the ACNC on 30 January 2020
- In collaboration with NSW RFS:
  - Determined initiatives for the distribution of donated funds
  - Released a survey to the NSW RFS membership to seek input on the use of donated fund.
- Provided a submission in response to a Notice to Give by the Royal Commission
- Sought a ruling from the Supreme Court NSW regarding the use of donated funds
- Set up a \$20m brigade grant program and reviewed 562 applications submitted by brigades as at 30 June 2020 with \$2,780,701.82 being paid
- On 2 June 2020 the Trustees provided in-principle approval of \$70 million for strategic initiatives proposed by NSW RFS as follows:
  - Member availability application
  - Mobile data terminals for firefighting vehicles
  - Personal protective equipment – head protection and respiratory protection
  - Electronic membership application system
  - Retrofit of fire appliance
  - Volunteer welfare programs (benevolent fund)
- Continued liaison with the NSW RFS regarding the use of donated funds

## 4 Donations and Distributions of Funds

Following the bush fires across NSW during late 2019 early 2020, the community, corporate sector and private individuals responded generously, donating both to individual brigades and to the central fund.

### 4.1 Donations – 2019/2020

During the 2019/2020 financial year, the Trust received generous donations from the public totalling \$116,057,846 of which:

- \$111,154,367 was donated to individual brigades
- \$4,903,479 was donated to the central fund for distribution

The table below provides a breakdown of large donations received during the reporting period:

Range \$	Number of Donations	Total Value \$
5,000-9,999	423	2,571,885.22
10,000-19,999	250	3,121,612.03
20,000-29,999	78	1,777,846.15
30,000-39,999	38	1,274,718.38
40,000-49,999	27	1,189,900.85
50,000-99,999	59	3,666,743.55
100,000-199,999	21	2,458,130.33
200,000-499,999	13	3,941,429.00
500,000-1,000,000	5	3,029,597.00

### 4.2 Distribution of Funds – 2019/2020

The Trustees are responsible for the disbursement of funds donated to the Central Fund.

At the 11 February 2020 meeting, the Trustees resolved to approve a \$20m Brigade Grants Program. The program was opened during February 2020 for all NSW RFS brigades to submit applications for up to \$10,000. As at 30 June 2020, 562 applications were received and a total of \$2,780,701.82 has been paid.

The Trust Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2020 are provided at **Appendix B**.

A summary of the allocations made from the Central Fund since the Trust's establishment is provided at **Appendix A**.

## 5 Project Implementation and Reporting

The table below summarises the projects that have been funded by the Trust since 2016/2017. The Trustees have continued to monitor the implementation progress of the Trust's investment in Hot Fire Training Facilities throughout 2019/2020.

Project	Funding	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Mobile Training Facilities x 2	\$82,000	Awarded		Complete	
Thermal Manikins	\$31,185	Awarded	Complete		
Canobolas Hot Fire Training Facility	\$77,000	Awarded			Complete
Bland Temora Hot Fire Training Facility	\$127,611	Awarded	Complete		
Lower Hunter Hot Fire Training Facility	\$99,500	Awarded	Complete		
Far West (Cobar) Mobile multi-purpose training prop	\$200,000			Awarded	Ongoing (scheduled for completion October 2020)
Liverpool Range standard training prop	\$150,000			Awarded	Complete
Castlereagh hot fire training pad	\$70,000			Awarded	Complete
\$20m brigade grant program	\$20,000,000				Awarded (Opened 27 February 2020, funds expended by 31 December 2020)

## 6 Trust Membership

As at 30 June 2020, the Trust has a membership of 299 brigades.

During the reporting period 2019/2020 thirty-four new brigades joined the Trust.

## 7 Service Level Agreement key activities

A service level agreement (SLA) was established between the Trust and the NSW RFS in January 2015 and is reviewed annually. The Trustees reviewed the SLA at meeting 31 held on 24 October 2019 which was subsequently signed by the NSW RFS on 15 January 2020 and the Trust on 16 January 2020.

The SLA outlines thirteen services to be provided by the NSW RFS to support the operation of the Trust.

The NSW RFS demonstrates, in part, its compliance with the SLA through quarterly and annual reporting on these services, which include financial reporting, brigade membership status, outcomes to risk assessments, submission of the ACNC Annual Information Statement, and the external auditor's report.

## 8 Profiles of the Trustees

Trustees as at 30 June 2020 were:

Trustee	Profile
<b>Mr Andrew Macdonald (Chair)</b>	Mr Macdonald was appointed a Trustee on 1 May 2013. He joined the NSW RFS in 1983 and is currently Group Captain of Macarthur Zone and Macarthur Zone Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA) Branch President. Mr Macdonald is also the Trust primary contact person for Catherine Field Rural Fire Brigade and a member of the NSW RFS/ RFSA Operations Group Consultative Committee. Mr Macdonald is the current Chair of the Trust.
<b>Mr Glenn Wall</b>	Mr Wall was appointed a Trustee on 1 May 2013. He joined the NSW RFS in 1994 and is currently a member and Secretary/ Treasurer of the Gresford Rural Fire Brigade. Mr Wall has been a member of the Dungog/ Lower Hunter Bush Fire Management Committee since 1999 and has been Chair since 2005. Mr Wall is the current Lower Hunter Health & Safety Representative and Director of the RFSA. Mr Wall was the Chair of the Trust from 2013 to 2019.
<b>Mr Scott Campbell</b>	Mr Campbell was appointed a Trustee on 1 May 2013. He joined the NSW RFS in 2005 and is a Deputy Group Officer and Captain of Lawrence Brigade in the Clarence Valley. Mr Campbell is also the RFSA Vice President and Deputy Chair of the Membership Services Committee.
<b>Mr Bruce McDonald AFSM</b>	Mr McDonald was appointed a Trustee on 17 October 2013. He joined the NSW RFS in 1980, serving 20 years as a volunteer before joining the staff ranks in 2000. Mr McDonald was awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal in 2011. Mr McDonald is currently Senior Assistant Commissioner and the Executive Director Infrastructure Services at NSW RFS.
<b>Mr Stephen Robinson</b>	Mr Robinson was appointed a Trustee on 21 March 2016. He joined the NSW RFS in 1994 and is a member of the Gosford Operational Support Brigade. Mr Robinson became Director/ Secretary of the NSW RFSA in 2015.
<b>Mr Anthony Clark</b>	Mr Clark was appointed a Trustee on 16 January 2015. He joined the NSW RFS in 2008 and is the Director, Communications and Engagement at NSW RFS.

## 9 Meeting Attendance – 2019/2020

Attendance of Trustees at Trust meetings from **1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020** was as follows:

Meeting	Andrew Macdonald	Glenn Wall	Scott Campbell	Stephen Robinson	Bruce McDonald AFSM	Anthony Clark
30 – 18/07/19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31 – 24/10/19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
32 – 16/01/20	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
32a – 11/02/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
32a – 19/02/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33 – 12/03/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓



Meeting	Andrew Macdonald	Glenn Wall	Scott Campbell	Stephen Robinson	Bruce McDonald AFSM	Anthony Clark
34 – 8/04/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
35 – 22/04/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36 – 8/05/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
37 – 20/05/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
38 – 2/06/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
39 – 17/06/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## 10 Trust Performance Assessment

Trustees undertook an individual assessment of the performance of the Trust in October 2019, which sought feedback in the areas of:

- Adherence to the Trust Charter
- Committee skills and experience
- Meeting administration and conduct
- Communication to brigades
- Internal and external control
- Self-assessment of trustee skills and experience

Results were de-identified, consolidated and presented to the Trust for consideration at meeting 31 on 24 October 2019. The results consistently scored at the high end of the scale, however, the responses relating to the Trustees' skills and experience and communications to brigades indicated that more focus was required to improve the ratings.

## Appendix A: Summary of Trust Allocated Funds

Year	Value	Investment
2011/2012	\$8,500	Commencement of the Trust At Meeting 1, 31 May 2012, funds were used to establish the financial arrangements of the Trust and member brigades.
2012/2013	Nil	Nil expenditure during the financial year.
2013/2014	\$637,000	At Meeting 9 on 9 April 2014, provision of buoy wall dams and 47 thermal imaging cameras (across 11 districts in both of Regions North and South, 17 districts in Region East and 8 districts in Region West).
2013/2014	\$25,000	A total of \$71,000 was allocated for the development of community bush fire educational materials. The objective was ultimately delivered by the NSW RFS as part of a broader campaign and the remaining funds (\$46,000) were returned for redistribution by the Trust.
2015/2016	Nil	Nil expenditure during the financial year.
2016/2017	\$440,789	A total of \$450,000 was allocated for the establishment of three Hot Fire Training Facilities (HFTF) located at Canobolas (in progress), Lower Hunter and Bland/Temora. In addition, two mobile HFTF's were constructed for use across NSW. Six thermal manikins were purchased as training aids to support each of the HFTF's. An under expenditure of \$9,211 was returned to the Trust for redistribution.
2017/2018	Nil	Nil expenditure during the financial year. At Meeting 20 on 20 July 2017, the Trustees resolved to hold over funds to 2018/19 FY to allow for a larger pool of funds to be available for disbursement.
2018/2019	\$420,000	At Meeting 29 on 14 March 2019, the Trustees resolved to approve three of the nine submitted proposals. The approved projects include a hot fire training pad, mobile training facility, and thermal manikins.
2019/2020	\$2,780,701.82	At Meeting 32a on 11 February 2020, the Trustees resolved to approve a \$20m Brigade Grants Program. The program opened on 27 February 2020 for all NSW RFS brigades to submit applications for up to \$10,000. Brigades must spend the allocation by 31 December 2020. An audit of the program will be initiated during 2021.

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund  
ABN: 88 311 702 546

Annual Financial Statements  
30 June 2020

# NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund

## Trustees' report

For the year ended 30 June 2020

The trustee's present their report together with the financial report of NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 June 2020 and the auditor's report thereon.

### 1. Trustee's

The trustee's of the Trust at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

#### **Name**

Scott Campbell	Appointed 1 May 2013
Andrew Macdonald	Appointed 1 May 2013
Glenn Wall	Appointed 1 May 2013
Bruce McDonald	Appointed 17 October 2013
Anthony Clark	Appointed 16 January 2015
Stephen Robinson	Appointed 21 March 2016

### 2. Trustees' meetings

Meetings are held when necessary. This is predominantly to decide on the apportionment of the Trust's funds across the range of activities it involves itself in. A total of ten meetings were held this financial year.

### 3. Principal activities

The principal activity of the Trust during the course of the financial year was for the purpose of supporting the volunteer-based fire and emergency service activities of the Brigades.

There were no other significant changes in the nature of the activities of the Trust during the year.

### 4. Operating and financial review

#### **Overview of the Trust**

The surplus for the year amounted to \$108,110,244 (2019: surplus of \$139,803).

The significant one-off increase in revenue during the year is attributable to the 2019/20 fire season which saw extensive devastation in NSW. This resulted in the generosity of the community, both from Australia and abroad.

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund  
Trustees' report (continued)  
For the year ended 30 June 2020

**Significant changes in the state of affairs**

In the opinion of the trustees, there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Trust that occurred during the financial year under review.

**5. Events subsequent to reporting date**

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the trustees of the Trust, to affect significantly the operations of the Trust, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Trust, in future financial years, apart from the Trustees dealing with the ongoing consequences of the global pandemic COVID-19, which has the potential to impact the Trusts' financial and operating decisions. The Trustees are continuously monitoring this to ensure it complies with the laws and regulations.

**6. Likely developments**

The Trust expects to maintain the present status and level of operations.

**7. Environmental regulation**

The Trust's operations are not subject to any significant environmental regulations under Commonwealth and State legislation.

**8. Lead auditor's independence declaration**

The lead auditor's independence declaration is set out on page 14 and forms part of the Trustees' report for the financial year 2020.

This report is made with a resolution of the Trustees:

Dated at Sydney Olympic Park this            day of October 2020.

Andrew Macdonald  
*Trustee*

Glenn Wall  
*Trustee*

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund  
Statement of comprehensive income  
For the year ended 30 June 2020

	<i>Note</i>	<b>2020</b> \$	<b>2019</b> \$
Revenue	4	116,630,266	762,249
Bank charges		(320,488)	(1,565)
Distributions to Brigades		(8,167,859)	(597,633)
Other expenses		(31,675)	(23,248)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Surplus for the period</b>		108,110,244	139,803
Other comprehensive income for the period		-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>		<u>108,110,244</u>	<u>139,803</u>

The statement of comprehensive income is to be read in conjunction with the notes of the financial statements set out on pages 7 to 10.

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund  
Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Allocated capital funds \$	Accumulated surplus \$	Total equity \$
Opening balance at 1 July 2018	10	383,941	383,951
Net surplus for the period	-	139,803	139,803
Closing balance at 30 June 2019	<u>10</u>	<u>523,744</u>	<u>523,754</u>
Opening balance at 1 July 2019	10	523,744	523,754
Net surplus for the period	-	108,110,244	108,110,244
Closing Balance at 30 June 2020	<u>10</u>	<u>108,633,988</u>	<u>108,633,998</u>

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes of the financial statements set out on pages 7 to 10.

## NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	114,437,135	2,428,317
Trade and other receivables	6	35,013	1,364
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>114,472,148</u>	<u>2,429,681</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>114,472,148</u>	<u>2,429,681</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	5,838,150	1,905,927
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>5,838,150</u>	<u>1,905,927</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>5,838,150</u>	<u>1,905,927</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>108,633,998</u>	<u>523,754</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Settlement sum		10	10
Accumulated surplus	8	108,633,988	523,744
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>108,633,998</u>	<u>523,754</u>

The statement of financial position is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements set out on pages 7 to 10.



## NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund

### Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash receipts in course of operations		116,059,342	709,736
Cash payments in course of operations		(4,621,448)	(458,976)
Cash provided by operating activities		111,437,894	250,760
Interest received		570,924	52,513
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	9	<u>112,008,818</u>	<u>303,273</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Settlement sum		-	-
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		112,008,818	303,273
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July		2,428,317	2,125,044
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June</b>	5	<u>114,437,135</u>	<u>2,428,317</u>

The statement of cash flows is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements set out on pages 7 to 10.

# NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund

## Notes to the financial statements

### 1. Reporting entity

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund ("the Trust") is domiciled in Australia.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the Trustees on October 2020.

### 2. Basis of preparation

#### (a) Statement of compliance

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB"), the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Trust Deed dated 10 April 2012, and any subsequent amendments.

#### (b) Basis of preparation

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and prepared on the historical cost basis.

#### (c) Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Trust's functional currency.

#### (d) Use of estimates and judgement

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in any future periods affected.

### 3. Significant accounting policies

#### (a) Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are stated at their cost less impairment losses.

#### (b) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand and cash balances as per bank account.

#### (c) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are stated at cost.

#### (d) Revenue

Revenues are recognised at fair value of the consideration received net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST) payable to the taxation authority.

##### (i) Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

##### (ii) Donations

Donations are recognised only when received at the Trust's administration offices or deposited into the Trust's bank account.

##### (iii) Distributions paid or payable

In accordance with the Trust Deed, the Trust fully distributes donations deposited to the account. Brigades may elect to have donations distributed to them upon receipt of the deposit or have monies retained within the Fund until some time in the future. Where donations are retained within the account interest is credited to the Brigade account on a monthly basis.

## NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 3. Significant accounting policies (continued)

**(e) Goods and services tax**

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as a current asset or liability in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority are classified as operating cash flows.

**(f) Income tax**

The Trust is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office for income tax exemption as a charitable fund, under Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. This exemption applies from 3 May 2012.

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund  
Notes to the financial statements (continued)

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>4. Revenue</b>		
Donations – RFS	111,154,367	152,963
Donations – Brigades	4,903,479	555,537
Interest received – RFS	521,303	10,418
Interest received – Brigades	49,621	42,095
Other income	1,496	1,236
	<u>116,630,266</u>	<u>762,249</u>
<b>5. Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash on hand	10	10
Cash at bank	114,437,125	2,428,307
	<u>114,437,135</u>	<u>2,428,317</u>
<b>6. Trade and other receivables</b>		
GST refundable	35,013	1,364
	<u>35,013</u>	<u>1,364</u>
<b>7. Trade and other payables</b>		
Distributions held in trust	5,806,250	1,892,177
Other creditors	31,900	13,750
	<u>5,838,150</u>	<u>1,905,927</u>
<b>8. Accumulated surplus</b>		
Accumulated surplus at beginning of period	523,744	383,941
Net surplus	108,110,244	139,803
Accumulated surplus at the end of period	<u>108,633,988</u>	<u>523,744</u>
<b>9. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities</b>		
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net surplus for the period	108,110,244	139,803
<i>Change in assets and liabilities during the financial year:</i>		
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	(33,649)	619
Increase in trade and other payables	3,932,223	162,851
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<u>112,008,818</u>	<u>303,273</u>

## NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 10. Key management personnel

The following responsible persons were key management personnel of the Trust at any time during the reporting period:

Scott Campbell (Appointed 1 May 2013)  
 Andrew Macdonald (Appointed 1 May 2013)  
 Glenn Wall (Appointed 1 May 2013)  
 Bruce McDonald (Appointed 17 October 2013)  
 Anthony Clark (Appointed 16 January 2015)  
 Stephen Robinson (Appointed 21 March 2016)

#### Transactions with key management personnel

No transactions with management personnel were noted throughout the period.

#### Trustees

The Trustees did not receive remuneration for their services during the period.

### 11. Segment reporting

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund is established and operates solely for the purpose of supporting the volunteer-based fire and emergency service activities of the Brigades, and operates in Australia.

### 12. Commitments

Non-cancellable amounts contracted for but not recognised in the financial statements.

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Payable		
- not later than 12 months	87,000,000	-
- later than 12 months but not later than five years	18,000,000	-
- later than five years	-	-
	105,000,000	-

### 13. Subsequent events

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial period and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a nature and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the Trustee's of the Trust, to affect significantly the operations of the Trust, the results of these operations, or the state of affairs of the Trust, in future financial years, apart from the Trustees dealing with the ongoing consequences of the global pandemic COVID-19, which has the potential to impact the Trusts' financial and operating decisions. The Trustees are continuously monitoring this to ensure it complies with relevant laws and regulations.

## **NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund Trustee's declaration**

In the opinion of the Trustee's of NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund ("the Trust"):

- (a) the accompanying financial statement of the Trust are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund for the year ended 30 June 2020 and the state of affairs of the Trust as at that date, and comply with the provisions of the Trust Deed dated 10 April 2012 (and any subsequent amendments), and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012;
- (b) at the date of this Declaration, there are reasonable grounds to believe the Trust will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Dated at Sydney Olympic Park this        day of October 2020.

Signed in accordance with a Resolution of the Trustee:

Andrew Macdonald  
*Trustee*

Glenn Wall  
*Trustee*



## **Independent auditor's report to the members of NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund**

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Report Qualified Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund ("the Trust") for the financial year ended 30 June 2020, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020 and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes to the financial statements set out on pages 3 to 10 and the responsible entities declaration set out on page 11.

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments, if any, as might have been required had the limitation referred to in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report of NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013*.

#### **Basis for qualified auditor's opinion**

Revenues from donations are a significant source of revenue for NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund. As is common for such income, it has been agreed that due to limited controls over the collection of cash donations prior to entry into its financial records, it is not possible to determine the completeness of revenue. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding revenues from these sources was limited, our audit procedures with respect to these items of revenue had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We therefore are unable to express an opinion on whether the revenues from these sources are complete.

#### **Basis of opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our audit. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Boards APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion

#### **Responsibilities of the Responsible Entities for the Financial Report**

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Trust Deed dated 10 April 2012 (and any subsequent amendments), and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible entities are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

#### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatement can arise from fraud or error and are considered material



## **Independent auditor's report to the members of NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund (continued)**

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report (Continued)**

if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decision of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal controls.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease or continue as a going concern
- Evaluate the overall presentation structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves a fair presentation
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the Trust or business activities within the Trust to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Trust's audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with responsible entities regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the responsible entities with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

### **Strategic Audit Services Pty Limited** Chartered Accountants

S Balram  
*Director*

Sydney Olympic Park.  
22 October 2020.

Principal  
Sharma Balram

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Strategic Audit Services  
Pty Ltd

ACN: 139 121 841







**Strategic Audit Services**  
Chartered Accountants

To: the Trustees of NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* in relation to the audit; and
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**Strategic Audit Services Pty Limited**  
Chartered Accountants

S Balram  
*Director*

Sydney Olympic Park.

22 October 2020.

**Principal**  
Sharma Balram

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