



**NSW Rural Fire Service**

# **Canobolas Zone**



# **2011/2012 Annual Report**

**“Where Risk Management is our Passion and Hazard Reduction is our Priority”**

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## OUR VISION

The Canobolas Zone of the NSW Rural Fire Service will be a leader in support and innovation to our volunteers who will provide the highest standard of excellence in the protection of our community from fires and other emergencies.

## OUR MISSION

To provide a cohesive, enthusiastic Volunteer Rural Fire Service trained and equipped to meet the needs of the community in an efficient, effective and professional manner. Our leadership and management systems will equip our volunteers and brigades to be a leading and respected resource within the NSW Rural Fire Service.

## **1. Executive Overview**

The traditional fire season for 2011/2012 year was again replaced with a very wet summer period for the second consecutive year, and again we saw crews having to adapt from meeting fire related responses to assisting communities and other emergency service organisations with flood response work.

Seasonal conditions continued to have an impact on hazard reduction activities but Canobolas Zone was again able to have a significant impact on the State results and completed just over 12,049 hectares or approximately some 8.86% of the work completed in NSW.

Further work was carried out on reviewing our Bush Fire Risk Management Plan which will allow the Zone to capitalise on the outstanding Canobolas Plan and further provide risk management that meets the needs of our member communities. The review will encompass an improved risk identification and rating process as well as expanding the assessment criteria used to demonstrate the results obtained. The new plan will be on adopted by the BFMC early in the 2012/2013 year and will be on public exhibition during December 2012.

Financially, we received a slightly smaller budget of \$6.50m which was down from the previous \$6.84M in 2010/2011. Whilst a reduction in budget we were able to meet our entire key performance criteria and ensure the future of the Zone.

Work was completed on the States first Standard Design Brigade Station at Lake Canobolas accommodating the brigades of Canobolas and Nashdale. The official opening for the station was conducted on October 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 in conjunction with a Long Service Medal Ceremony where the long serving efforts of 32 individual members were recognised. The cooperation and assistance received from Cabonne and Orange Councils to bring this facility to completion is very much appreciated. The other State Standard Design Station that was constructed and opened was held for the Eulimore Brigade Transportable Station.

The commitment of our volunteers was recognised with a number of other Long Service Medal and Tanker Handover Ceremonies being presented by either Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons or Region West Manager Paul Smith. These were conducted at Tallwood for both Lyndhurst and Tallwood Brigades, Canobolas FCC for Orange City Council Brigades and Cargo for the Cargo brigade including a Tanker Hand Over.

The Canobolas Zone website continues to be our greatest form of communication and is now reaching some 50,000 visitations per month. This has been consistently increasing throughout the past reporting year.

At the end of June 2012 Zone Manager, David Hoadley returned to his role as manager of Canobolas Zone after completing a 21 month deployment as Acting Manager at the Blue Mountains District. David Jones who has been Acting Manager at Canobolas Zone has been appointed as Acting District Manager at the Blue Mountains District.

## **2. COMPLETED CANOBOLAS ZONE PROJECTS FOR 2011/2012**

1. Completion of Standard Design Canobolas/Nashdale Brigades Station at Lake Canobolas.
2. Commencement of Construction of a Standard Design Brigade Stations at Darbys Falls.
3. Completion of the Transportable Fire Station for Eulimore.
4. Accept delivery of 3 new tankers.
5. Oversee internal transfer of 4 tankers.
6. Commence works on a new holistic whole of business next generation risk management plan.
7. Completion of smoke house training facilities at Orange & Cowra
8. Increase of website content and interactivity.
9. Continuation of the highest standard of hazard reduction activity.
10. Developed "Pilot" Community Protection Plan for Cumnock Village.
11. Continuation of the "Gum Tree Meeting" process.
12. Endorsed Stores Policy with integration capability to the new SAP system.
13. Development of 2011/2012 Milestones for our Strategic Plan.
14. Sale of redundant Tankers.
15. Continued the rollout of the Fire Trail Signage Project.
16. Expanded the Canobolas influence within the RFS through various Boards and Advisory Committees where we have representation.
17. Facilitation of a Zone "Exercise" to test the operational capability of our Brigades.
18. Planning completed to convert the Operations room functionality at FCC to incorporate a "Knowledge Wall" in line with Communications, Command and Control (CCC) Training framework.
19. Continuation of works at the Larras Lee Airstrip

### 3. People

#### **3.1 Membership**

During the 2011/2012 period the total volunteer membership increased by 135 personnel across the four local government areas. Details of the membership numbers and the locations are shown in Table 1.



**Molong Crew: Shane Harvey, Karl Gosper and Capt Andy McKenzie at the counter terrorism exercise Larras Lee August 2011.**

During the past 12 months the volunteer numbers continue to increase at a time where the anecdotal evidence suggests a population decline and age increases across rural communities. Whilst the average age of our membership is increasing it is clear that the greatest challenge over the next decade will be the renewing our workforce whilst maintaining the local knowledge and fire behaviour and suppression capability that is interwoven into the skillset of our more senior members.

**TABLE 1 - Membership**

	<b>Members 01 July 11</b>	<b>Members 30 June 12</b>	<b>Difference +/-</b>	<b>Difference %</b>
<b>Blayney</b>	352	395	+43	12.20%
<b>Cowra</b>	671	705	+34	5.06%
<b>Orange</b>	191	207	+16	8.38%
<b>Cabonne</b>	1091	1133	+42	3.85%
<b>Total</b>	2305	2440	+135	5.85%

Carcoar became better known throughout Australia due to Carcoar Brigade Member Graham Pilson appearing on the television programme Australia's Biggest Loser.



Graham being congratulated by Operations Officer Brett Bowden for his commitment to weight loss on the Biggest Loser program whilst being watched by his trainer "Commando".



Medal Presentations to our Volunteers

**"Where Risk Management is our Passion and Hazard Reduction is our Priority"**

### 3.2 Staff.

Permanent staff levels remained at 8, with no disruption through secondments or transfers. The acting manager, Supt David Jones, continued in the role due to the extension of the commitment to the Blue Mountains by the incumbent manager Supt David Hoadley.

The staff structure as at 1 July 2011 was:

Acting Zone Manager	David Jones
Operations Officer	Brett Bowden AFSM
Community Safety Officer	Arthur Sharp
Learning and Development Officer	Nils Waite
Operations Officer (Infrastructure)	Steve Smith
Operations Support Officer	Roy Ferguson
Fire Mitigation Officer	Geoff Selwood
Administration Officer	Liz Lewis

During the year work had commenced across the Regions to implement an organisational realignment to better align the functionality of the Regional and District staff roles with that of the Head Office. The format required was to migrate current positions into the following four areas of responsibility;

- Management
- Operational Services
- Membership Services &
- Infrastructure and Assets

For the Canobolas Zone this was a relatively simple task and staff were able to easily migrate to the required functionality without difficulty.

### 3.3 Community Consultation.

Our Gum Tree meetings were impacted slightly by the staff movements during this reporting period.

The "Gum Tree" meeting brand is gradually being picked up by other districts across the State and has been incorporated into the Region West Business Plan for use across the Region.

The objectives of these meetings remain:

- ❖ To improve communication and understanding between our volunteers and staff.
- ❖ To build lasting and long term relationships and alliances with our volunteers and communities.
- ❖ To really engage with our volunteers by listening to their needs or concerns.
- ❖ The promotion of mutually beneficial results.
- ❖ Identify and build upon our common ground within the RFS.

Key activities included:

- Gum Tree Meetings.
- Risk Management Plan meetings were held at Baldry, Manildra and Cowra.
- Community Protection Plan meetings were held at Cumnock.
- Open Day activities were conducted across the Zone.
- School visits were undertaken.
- Small Farm information days were conducted in conjunction with DPI.
- Brigades have been active in their communities promoting the "Bush Fire Survival Plans".



**Trajere Gum Tree Meeting**



**Trajere Gum Tree Meeting**

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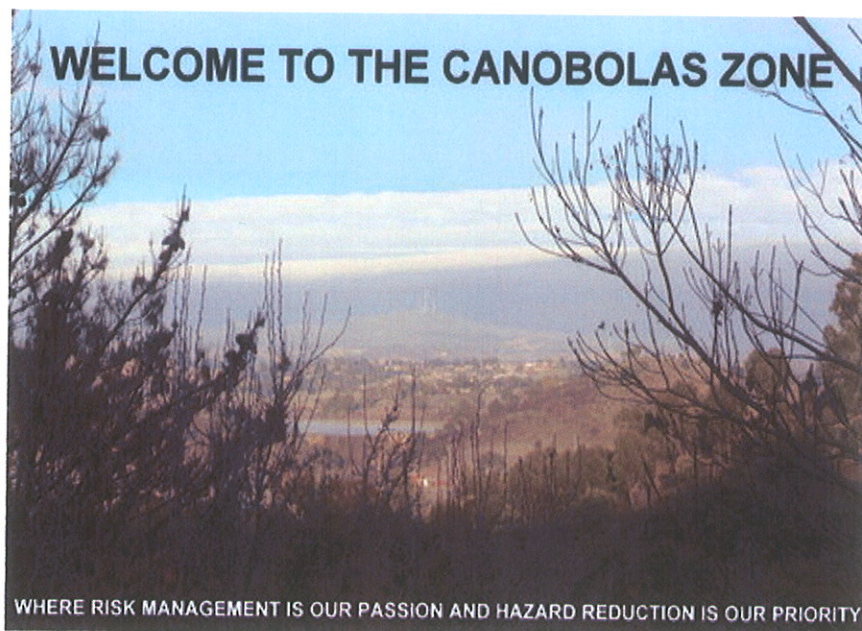




**Gum Tree Meeting – Consultation in action**

### **3.4 Canobolas Zone Website.**

The Canobolas Zone website continues to improve and meet the needs of our volunteers and the wider community. The site at <http://www.canobolas.rfs.nsw.gov.au> has now become the major medium by which we communicate all activities with our Brigades and support personnel.



Now into its fourth year of professional site management where regular updates occur, the site is gaining an encyclopaedic information source for all fire related activities, events and research that

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impacts on the local population. Canobolas Zone will ensure that this level of resource continues to grow for the benefit of our communities.

Media links will continue to be maintained to capture public news stories that relate to the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Canobolas Zone and its people.

The activity level for the site for the past year is detailed below in Table 2 along with a comparison of previous year's figures.

**TABLE 2 - Website Hits Monthly Summary**

Month	Hits 2011/12	Hits 2010/11
July	39,058	19,858
August	40,504	30,515
September	47,633	26,479
October	52,717	25,750
November	51,097	18,837
December	46,507	28,678
January	45,637	31,332
February	49,774	33,928
March	76,359	40,260
April	54,452	36,550
May	54,421	41,212
June	40,548	41,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>598,707</b>	375,349

### 3.5 Cadets.

The RFS Secondary Schools Cadet Programme is run over ten weeks and is open to Year 9 and Year 10 students. Schools in the Canobolas Zone who participated in the 2011 Programme include Cowra High School (11 students) and Orange Christian School (17 students).

The aims of the cadet training include developing an interest in the RFS and its traditions, provide knowledge of fire safety and preparedness and encouraging the cadets to continue an involvement in the RFS and community services and most importantly to provide a sense of community spirit and responsibility.

Students were given hands-on demonstrations of RFS vehicles and equipment, hand tools, communications, map reading and casualty assistance. They also gained an understanding of the roles of other emergency services when they attended at the CHC Helicopter base, Blayney SES and Orange SES.

The Programme is overseen by Canobolas Zone staff and the training is provided by several volunteer members for each school.

Other Cadet activities included Brigade Cadets which we have 4 groups; Neville, Millthorpe, Waugoola and Clifton Grove. The Waugoola and Clifton Grove Cadets travelled to Lake Macquarie to participate in the National Cadet Championships, although no awards were won all participants gained further skills and had an enjoyable weekend.



**RFS members undertaking Urban Search and Rescue Training from FRNSW**

### **3.6 Learning and Development**

Another successful year of training was conducted within the Zone, by our staff and volunteers. During the year a total of 293 persons were deemed competent in various RFS qualifications. A large number of volunteers also attended various local workshops during the year.

Canobolas was successful with grants from the NRMA and the RFSA in excess of \$40,000 for the funding of;

- CABA refilling station and compressor – RFSA,
- 2 Oxy Resuscitation Kits for Advanced Resuscitation Techniques training – RFSA,
- Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) – NRMA.

The Region West Exercise was well attended again this year with 2 complete strike teams attending gaining valuable experience and knowledge in the latest fire fighting techniques and procedures.

The Zone's volunteers and/or staff have been involved in the following training activities:

- Aviation Operations
- Rural Fire Driving
- Bush Firefighter
- Village Firefighter
- Advanced Firefighter
- Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus
- Command, Control, Communication
- TAE Upgrade Cert IV Training and Assessing
- Crew Leader
- Senior First Aid
- Incident Management Workshop
- Incident Management Exercise
- Rural Fire Instructor

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- Combined Agency Exercises
- Bush Fire Awareness
- Chainsaw Operations
- Group Leader
- Community Liaison Officer
- Advanced Resuscitation Techniques
- Instructors Workshop
- Communications Centre Assistant
- Wildfire Investigation
- Asbestos Awareness Workshop
- MR Licence Workshop
- AED / CPR Workshop
- Solar Panel Workshop
- MVA Workshop
- Structural Workshop
- Urban Search And Rescue
- Command, Control and Communications
- SAP training
- GPS Training
- BA Technician Workshop



A crew learning about Anti-Terrorism at the Region West Exercise August 2011



**The Advanced Firefighter Assessment August 2011 at the rear of the FCC.**

The most significant change to both staff and volunteers this year was the migration of all Fire Zone Applications into the SAP data base system. The migration has provided some challenges to all staff in understanding the capability of the SAP system. This year also found the RFS moving into Online learning systems with the Safety and Volunteer Inductions now being completed by new members over the internet through MyRFS. Region West is providing Online learning option through the Moodle network system for a number of courses including BF, BFG, BFS, CLG and upgrades of CLW and CLS. This system will be expanded next year to include other main stream and specialist courses that have a theory component that can be adapted to Online learning.

Training is still being taken out to the brigades as requested or held close to where the majority of the participants, on a particular course, reside.



**Eulimore members receiving instruction on the AED before their new Station opening**

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### 3.7 Financial

The Canobolas Zone received a total allocation from the Rural Fire Fighting Fund of \$6,501,773 for the 2011/2012 year. Each Council received the allocation as shown in Table 3:

**TABLE 3 – RFFF Allocation**

<b>Blayney</b>	\$1,522,356
<b>Cabonne</b>	\$2,259,453
<b>Cowra</b>	\$1,562,671
<b>Orange</b>	\$1,127,292
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,501,773</b>

Our Councils are responsible for contributing 11.7% to the total budget.

The final Council contribution for the year was \$447,120 which was slightly lower than originally planned by Councils. The split between the Councils is outlined in Table 4:

**TABLE 4 – Council Contribution to the RFFF**

<b>Council</b>	<b>Actual Contribution</b>
Blayney	\$109,500
Cabonne	\$154,600
Cowra	\$110,707
Orange	\$ 72,312

## 4. Activities

### 4.1 Hazard Reduction results

Whilst the wet weather did play a role in a number of the planned HR events, the hazard reduction results again surpassed the benchmark 9,500ha requirement by over 2,500ha eventually totalling some 12.049ha for the reporting period.

**TABLE 5 – HR Results by year 2008 to 2012**

Hazard Reduction completed in hectares

	<b>Canobolas Figures 2008</b>	<b>Canobolas Figures 2009</b>	<b>Canobolas Figures 2010</b>	<b>Canobolas Figures 2011</b>	<b>Canobolas Figures 2012</b>
<b>Dept Lands</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>5,180</b>	<b>9,425</b>	<b>7,934</b>	<b>5719</b>	<b>8427</b>
<b>National Park</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>1687</b>	<b>972</b>
<b>Other (1)</b>			<b>11</b>		
<b>Private</b>	<b>5,040</b>	<b>5,222</b>	<b>6,756</b>	<b>5523</b>	<b>2095</b>
<b>Railcorp</b>		<b>346</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>297</b>
<b>RTA (2)</b>		<b>451</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>226</b>
<b>State Forests</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>118</b>	
<b>Total HA's HR Work</b>	<b>11,408</b>	<b>16,838</b>	<b>18,439</b>	<b>14,202</b>	<b>12,049</b>
<b>% State Works</b>	<b>9.15%</b>	<b>13.65%</b>	<b>10.85%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>8.86%</b>

Canobolas Zone is one of 68 BFMC's in the State and in terms of total hazard reduction achieved across the State, Canobolas Zone is a strong performer.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Works Completed in Hectares</b>
2004/2005	10,933
2005/2006	2,602
2006/2007	6,900
2007/2008	11,408
2008/2009	16,838
2009/2010	18,439
2010/2011	14,202
2011/2012	12,049
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,371</b>
<b>Annual Benchmark</b>	<b>9,471</b>
<b>Average Achieved 8 years</b>	<b>11,671</b>
<b>Excess to Benchmark</b>	<b>17,603</b>
<b>Percentage Completed</b>	<b>123.23%</b>

The State figures presented to the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012 indicate that Canobolas Zone has again completed the most hazard reduction in the State despite the wet year we have experienced.



Volunteers conducting a HR Burn within the Eugowra Village

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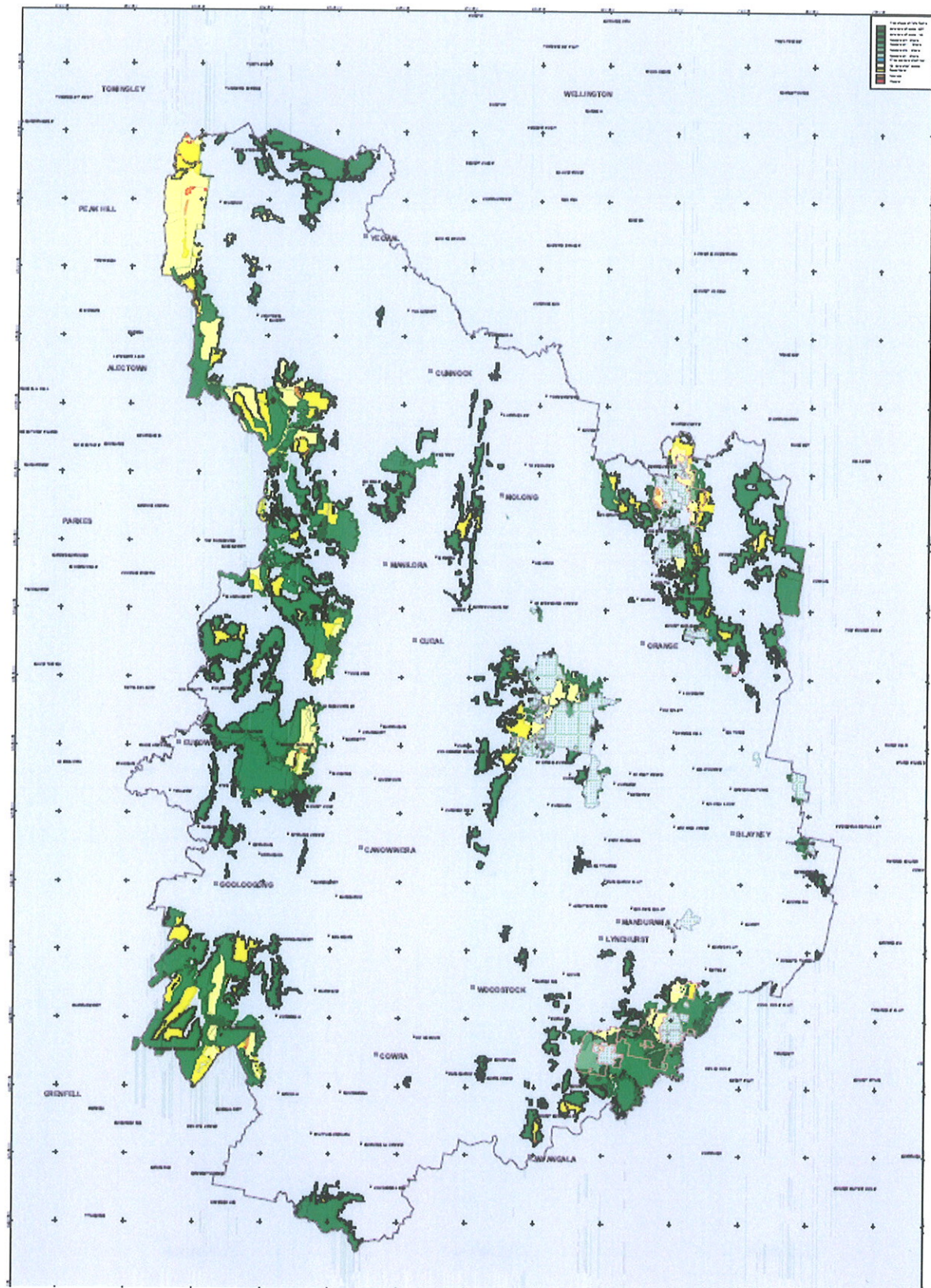




Low Intensity Burn private property near Ophir Road

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## Canobolas Zone "How We are Going Map" for Hazard Reduction 2005-2012



The Green and Yellow areas on the map display our timber fire prone areas. The Yellow areas have been treated and are within the required fire threshold for their fire management zone. The Green areas still require treatment and are programmed into our annual hazard reduction program.

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#### 4.2 Hazard Complaints & Permits

The hazard reduction component of Rural Fire Service activities is now undertaken expressly by the Canobolas Zone on behalf of the Councils and entails four separate areas

1. Issue of Fire Permits
2. Issue of Hazard Reduction Certificates
3. Management of Hazard Complaints
4. Advice on Compliance to "Planning for Bushfire Protection" in regard to Development Applications.

Since 1 July 2011 and up to 30 June 2012 the Activities Staff of Canobolas Zone carried out the following works as listed in Table 7.

**TABLE 7 – Community Safety Activities**

	Blayney	Cabonne	Cowra	Orange	Total
Development Applications 79BA / 100B	0	2	0	2	4
Permits Section 87 & 88	42	126	119	52	339
Hazard Complaints	0	42	146	82	270
Hazard Reduction Certificates	7	84	155	146	392

The number of permits issued during this financial year is significantly down on the 433 permits of the previous reporting period, again reflecting a wetter than average year. Hazard Complaints were also dramatically reduced from the previous year's 526 received.

#### Fire Trails

During the past 12 months there has been an extensive review of all fire trails within the Canobolas Zone with digitizing and entry into the fire trail register system.

**TABLE 8 – Fire Trails by land tenure**

Tenure	Number of Fire Trails	Distance
Councils	6	13.50km
Crown Land	4	9.70km
NPWS	117	341.00km
Forests NSW	160	395.05km
Private	116	421.50km
Wyangala State Waters	15	22.41km

## Fire Trail Signs

Signs for all fire trails within the Canobolas Zone have been produced and are continuing to be installed by our volunteers.



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### 4.3 Fire and Emergency Incidents

Fire Season 2011/2012 was similar to the previous season which saw a wetter spring and summer period that minimised the risk of severe fire activity during the declared Bush Fire Danger Period.

Whilst there were no fires of significance during the reporting period, the statistics as displayed in TABLE 9 show that the year's activity level of 394 incidents was comparable to the previous four years.

There is a direct link between brigade activity levels and volunteer membership and participation, and it is recognised that the greater the level of activity the more responsive, active and skilful our Brigades will perform.

#### Incidents

Across the Zone our Brigades responded to a total of Incidents during the 2011/12 reporting period. The table below details the responses by Council area and the historic totals since 2005/06.

**TABLE 9 – Incidents Totals 2010/11**

	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
<b>Blayney</b>	55	58	62	47	46	78	56
<b>Cabonne</b>	173	151	152	155	139	230	196
<b>Cowra</b>	82	102	57	78	99	98	101
<b>Orange</b>	84	85	69	71	58	122	88
<b>Totals</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>441</b>

The total number of incidents decreased by just two on the previous year, yet is still significantly down on what would be termed "average" as represented in the 2006/07 year, where total incidents are in excess of 500 for the reporting year. Interestingly, whilst Blayney and Orange Districts maintained similar levels of activity to the previous year, there was an increase in Cabonne by 22 incidents and Cowra was down by almost the same amount.

#### Non Bush/Grass Fire Incidents

Of those incidents listed in Table 9 the below listed Table 10 identifies those incidents that are not fire related but rather Motor vehicle accidents (MVA's), false alarms and good intent calls.

**TABLE 10 – Non Fire Incidents 2011/12**

	MVA's	False alarm	Good intent
<b>Blayney</b>	22	0	3
<b>Cabonne</b>	36	21	12
<b>Cowra</b>	17	10	12
<b>Orange</b>	15	1	13

The other measure of Brigade activity that counts total *actual* responses is a true measure of total Brigade activity. It has been a Canobolas Zone practice for some time, particularly during the summer months, to respond multiple brigades to reported incidents to ensure rapid containment and sufficient personnel resources. By capturing the primary AND supporting brigades who are responded to each reported incident, a true picture of the activity level can be appreciated. Table 11 highlights this activity.

**TABLE 11 - Total Responses 2011/12**

	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>
<b>Blayney</b>	55	<b>71</b>
<b>Cabonne</b>	173	<b>224</b>
<b>Cowra</b>	82	<b>127</b>
<b>Orange</b>	84	<b>113</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>535</b>

The previous reporting period showed a total response figure of 514.

### **Out of Area Assistance**

Canobolas Zone has an Out of Area Assistance Plan that establishes the protocols and resources available to immediately assist our neighbouring Districts following any request.

During the reporting period local RFS resources were dispatched to the locations listed in Table 12 during the flood crisis that impacted upon those locations during early 2012. These deployments varied in size, resources and personnel.

There were no resources or personnel tasked Out Of Area for fire fighting or fire fighting support during this reporting period.

### **Other Assistance**

During the year Canobolas Zone RFS crews also provided valuable assistance to the SES and Police during the Flood Emergencies across our own area through the provision of manpower, pumping capability and use of high clearance vehicles to alleviate the impact of rising water as a result of significant rainfall events. The greatest role during these events was throughout the Cowra LGA where over 408 man hours were expended over multiple days assisting at Darbys Falls, Cowra and communities along the Lachlan River to Gooloogong during the peak flood event.

**Table 12 - Deployment statistics Flood Support 2012**

<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Tasked DTZ</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Days/Shifts</b>	<b>Total man/shifts</b>	
24	Cowra	Cowra	Response	14	336	
18	Cowra	Cowra	Recovery	4	72	
15	Cabonne	Canowindra	Response	2	30	
2	Blayney	Blayney	Response	1	2	
13	MLVT	Condobolin	Response	2	26	
3	BDZ	Bourke	Response	5	15	
3	NWT	Walgett	Response	3	9	
11	MIA	Barellan	Recovery	5	55	

Staff	Tasked DTZ	Location	Task	Days/Shifts	Total man/shifts	
2	NWT	Lightning Ridge	Response	12	24	
1	NWT	Coonamble	Response	2	2	
5	Cowra	Cowra	Response	16	80	
					651	
<b>97</b>				<b>34</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>7812 hrs @ 12 hrs per shift</b>

## 5. Infrastructure and Assets

### 5.1 Tanker Replacement Plan

Funding of \$599,000 was allocated for new fire fighting vehicles during 2011/12. The Senior Management Team had previously endorsed the recommendation to only purchase new fire fighting vehicles and this was based on the current average age of the Canobolas Fleet and the state and age of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand vehicles that had been recently allocated.

A total of three new dual cab Cat 7 units were allocated into the Manildra, Carcoar and Barryrennie Brigades. These tankers arrive at a total cost of \$169,000 and allow the transfer of late model Category 7 tankers into other brigades as a flow on of these arrivals.

**TABLE 13 – Tanker Receivals 2011/12**

COUNCIL	BRIGADE	TANKER
<b>Cabonne</b>	Manildra	New Cat 7
	Ponds	Cat 7
<b>Blayney</b>	Carcoar	New Cat 7
<b>Cowra</b>	Barryrennie	New Cat 7
	Gap	Cat 7



**Three new NPS Isuzu Cat 7 Tankers delivered**

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## **5.2 Maintenance**

A total of \$389,080 was allocated to the Canobolas Zone for maintenance funding across the fleet, stations, communications and ancillary equipment.

All fire fighting vehicles were treated to either a Minor or Major Service simultaneous with a roadworthy inspection and an inspection of the carried fire fighting equipment. These works commenced from July 2011 and concluded during December 2011.

The Service centres for these works are decentralised to limit the amount of travelling required by volunteers, as well as constrain the fuel expenditure. These centres have all been selected for their capability and expertise in providing the required maintenance for heavy vehicles and have all gained the certification required to perform the RTA HVIS (Heavy Vehicle Inspection Scheme).

The approved service centres are:

- PGR Truck Repairs
- Cowra Truck Wreckers
- Molong Tyre & Mechanical
- BK & BS Burn Canowindra
- Hamilton's Mobile Mechanical Repairs Cudal

## **5.3 Station Upgrade Program**

There was no allocation for new Fire Station builds for the 2011/12 financial year, however, the Canobolas Zone was able to utilise existing funding previously allocated that had been "carried over" to continue the project work of building new standard design and a transportable fire station.

This reporting year saw the completion of the 3 Bay Standard Design Station at Lake Canobolas to house the Canobolas and Nashdale Brigades at a total cost of \$250,000. In addition the 2 Bay Standard Design station at Darbys Falls was commenced along with the completion of a 2 bay transportable station built on leased land at Eulimore immediately east of Eugowra at a cost of \$35,416.





**Darbys Falls Station under construction February 2012**



**Eulimore Station as completed**

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#### 5.4 Fire Control Centre Usage

The Canobolas Zone continues to be used on a regular basis for State, Regional and Zone meetings and training events. Several Government Departments and private businesses also hire our rooms for activities and training sessions.

Highlights this year have been the:

- RFS Media Courses
- Canobolas Zone Long Service Award presentations.
- RFS ID Card training
- GIS Training.
- Region West Incident Management Workshop
- NSWRFs Command Control and Communications
- NSWRFs State Mitigation Crews Training and Induction
- Greater Western Area Health Service
- Rescue and Response Training
- District Emergency Management Training
- RTA
- Cadia Valley



**Medal Presentations at the Fire Control Centre**

## 6. Planned Projects for 2012 - 2013

- Complete our new holistic whole of business next generation risk management plan which will become the Canobolas Business Model.
- Review and extend the 2013-2016 Canobolas Zone Strategic Plan.
- Continue the highest standard of hazard reduction activity.
- Further enhance hazard reduction and containment lines on private property.
- Continue the "Gum Tree Meeting" process.
- Completion of the Larras Lee Airstrip Stage 2.
- Completion of Standard Design Station at March.
- Construction of 2 Standard Transportable type Stations at Barryrenie and Merriganowry.
- Extension to the North West Station.
- Relocation and facilities for the Byng / Emu Swamp Station.
- Facility upgrades at Nargong, Porters Mount, Rivers, Gooloogong, Mount McDonald and Mullion Creek.
- Accept delivery of 4 new tankers.
- Oversee internal transfer of 4 tankers.
- Convert our stores program to the new SAP system.
- Develop 2013/2014 milestones for our Strategic Plan.
- Complete the rollout of the Fire Trail Signage Project.
- Continue to expand the Canobolas influence within the RFS through various Boards and Advisory Committees where we have representation.