



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE AND BRIGADES DONATIONS FUND

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

ABN: 88 311 702 546

Document control

Release history

HPE Ref	Date	Author	Summary of changes
DOC21/963804	September 2021	Dianne Kelly	Initial version

Reviewed by

Name	Title	Date
Renee Armstrong	Director Office of the Commissioner	22/12/2021

Endorsed by

Name	At	Date
The Trustees	Meeting 63	18 November 2021

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[v6]
NSW Rural Fire Service and Brigades Donations Fund Charter	DOC18/88253[v4]
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

Contents

1	About the Fund	4
1.1	Purpose of the Fund.....	4
1.2	Contact Details	4
2	Governance	4
3	Trust Activities	5
4	Donations and Distributions of Funds	5
4.1	Donations – 2020/2021	5
4.2	Distribution of Funds – 2020/2021	6
5	Project Implementation and Reporting	Error! Bookmark not defined.
6	Trust Membership.....	6
7	Service Level Agreement key activities	6
8	Profiles of the Trustees	7
9	Meeting Attendance – 2020/2021	7
10	Trust Performance Assessment.....	8
Appendix A:	Summary of Trust Allocated Funds	10

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

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 v6.0
- NSW Rural Fire Service and Brigades Donations Fund Charter v4.0
- 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 trustees complete an annual declaration of conflicts of interest which is updated as required.

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 8 *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 more frequently since February 2020. The Trust has an elected Chair. The Trust receives 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 2020/2021 financial year were as follows:

- Findings from the 2020 Trust Performance Assessment were adopted at Meeting 42 on 2 July 2021
- Managed the Audit of the Trust's Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the 2019/2020 financial year – the final report was endorsed at Meeting 48 on 22 October 2020
- Managed the Audit of Brigade Compliance with Deductible Gift Recipient Compliance (for the 2019/2020 financial year) and communicated the outcomes to the Commissioner of the NSW RFS and member brigades – the final report was endorsed at Meeting 53 on 14 January 2021
- The Annual Information Statement, Trust Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the 2019/2020 reporting period was submitted to the ACNC on 25 January 2021
- In collaboration with NSW RFS determined initiatives for the distribution of donated funds
- Delivered a \$20m brigade grant program and reviewed 1683 applications submitted by brigades as at 30 June 2021 with \$17,744,466.01 being paid
- Provided funding for the roll out of new B9R helmets to all volunteer members.
- On 2 October 2020 the Trustees announced the \$18m Area Command Grant Program, anticipated to take the form of major projects or purchase of larger assets that would have broad benefits to many volunteers. Applications closed 30 June 2021 with 42 applications received, totalling \$17,848,850.32
- Continued liaison with the NSW RFS regarding the expenditure 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 – 2020/2021

During the 2020/2021 financial year, the Trust received generous donations from the public totalling \$3,583,396 of which:

- \$2,563,476 was donated to individual brigades
- \$1,019,920 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	59	354,526.11
10,000-19,999	26	283,985.24
20,000-29,999	10	236,302.83
30,000-39,999	4	141,924.37
40,000-49,999	3	124,038.10
50,000-99,999	5	292,310.49
100,000-199,999	1	166,000.00
200,000-499,999	1	308,417.00
500,000-1,000,000	1	637,917.84

4.2 Distribution of Funds – 2020/2021

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 2021, 1683 applications were received and a total of \$17,744,466.01 has been paid.

The Trust Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2021 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 Trust Membership

As at 30 June 2021, the Trust has a membership of 309 brigades.

During the reporting period 2020/2021 ten new brigades joined the Trust.

6 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 48 held on 22 October 2020 which was subsequently signed by the NSW RFS on 26 October 2020 and the Trust on 22 October 2020.

The SLA outlines sixteen 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.

7 Profiles of the Trustees

Trustees as at 30 June 2021 were:

Trustee	Profile
Mr Andrew Macdonald (Chair)	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 District 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.
Mr Glenn Wall	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.
Mr Scott Campbell	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 President and Deputy Chair of the Membership Services Committee.
Mr Bruce McDonald AFSM	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.
Mr Stephen Robinson	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 and Vice President in 2021.
Mr Anthony Clark	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.

8 Meeting Attendance – 2020/2021

Attendance of Trustees at Trust meetings from **1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021** was as follows:

Meeting	Andrew Macdonald	Glenn Wall	Scott Campbell	Stephen Robinson	Bruce McDonald AFSM	Anthony Clark
40 – 02/07/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41 – 15/07/20	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
42 – 30/07/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
43 – 12/08/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Meeting	Andrew Macdonald	Glenn Wall	Scott Campbell	Stephen Robinson	Bruce McDonald AFSM	Anthony Clark
27/08/20						
45 – 10/09/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
46 – 24/09/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
47 – 09/10/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
48 – 22/10/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49 – 05/11/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
50 – 19/11/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51 – 03/12/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52- 17/12/20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53- 14/01/21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54- 04/02/21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55- 18/02/21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
56- 11/03/21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57- 15/04/21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58- 20/05/21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59- 17/06/21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

9 Trust Performance Assessment

Trustees undertook an individual assessment of the performance of the Trust in July 2020, 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 42 on 2 July 2021. 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	\$20,000,000	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. As at 30 June 2021 an audit of the program had commenced.
2020/2021	\$9,000,000	As at 30 June 2021 the Trust had provided \$9,000,000 to the NSW RFS to assist with the provision of new firefighting helmets to all NSW RFS volunteers.
2020/2021	\$5,000,000	As at 30 June 2021 the Trust had provided (and part paid) up to \$5,000,000 to the NSW RFS to enable a number of key projects to commence. These projects include the development of an online volunteer membership application, volunteer availability and response application known as RFS Activ as well as funding to provide up to 1,000 volunteers with the opportunity to gain nationally accredited trainer and assessor qualifications.
2020/2021	\$18,000,000	At Meeting 44, held 27 August 2020, the Trustees resolved to approve a \$18m Area Command Program. The program opened 2 October 2020 for all NSW RFS Districts to submit applications for up to \$400,000. Districts must spend the allocation by 30 June 2022. An audit of the program will be initiated during 2023.

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund

ABN: 88 311 702 546

Annual Financial Statements

30 June 2021

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund Trustees' report

For the year ended 30 June 2021

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 2021 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 20 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 deficit for the year amounted to \$24,947,264 (2020: surplus of \$108,110,244). The deficit for the current year reflects the partial distribution of the significant donations received in the previous financial year.

The significant one-off increase in revenue during the prior year was 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. During the current financial year, no such activity occurred due to reduced bush fire occurrences.

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund
Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2021

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 2021.

This report is made with a resolution of the Trustees:

Dated at Sydney Olympic Park this 21st day of October 2021.



Andrew Macdonald
Trustee



Bruce McDonald
Trustee

21/10/21

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund
Statement of comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2021

	<i>Note</i>	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue	4	4,696,752	116,630,266
Bank charges		(3,601)	(320,488)
Distributions to, or on behalf of, Brigades		(29,610,924)	(8,167,859)
Other expenses		<u>(29,491)</u>	<u>(31,675)</u>
(Deficit)/surplus for the period		(24,947,264)	108,110,244
Other comprehensive income for the period		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period		<u>(24,947,264)</u>	<u>108,110,244</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 2021

	Allocated capital funds \$	Accumulated surplus \$	Total equity \$
Opening balance at 1 July 2020	10	108,633,988	108,633,998
Net (deficit) for the period	-	(24,947,264)	(24,947,264)
Closing balance at 30 June 2021	<u>10</u>	<u>83,686,724</u>	<u>83,686,734</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 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	89,405,395	114,437,135
Trade and other receivables	6	3,309	35,013
Total current assets		<u>89,408,704</u>	<u>114,472,148</u>
Total assets		<u>89,408,704</u>	<u>114,472,148</u>
Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	<u>5,721,970</u>	<u>5,838,150</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>5,721,970</u>	<u>5,838,150</u>
Total liabilities		<u>5,721,970</u>	<u>5,838,150</u>
Net assets		<u>83,686,734</u>	<u>108,633,998</u>
Equity			
Settlement sum		10	10
Accumulated surplus	8	<u>83,686,724</u>	<u>108,633,988</u>
Total equity		<u>83,686,734</u>	<u>108,633,998</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 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash receipts in course of operations		3,582,733	116,059,342
Cash payments in course of operations		<u>(29,728,492)</u>	<u>(4,621,448)</u>
Cash provided by operating activities		(26,145,759)	111,437,894
Interest received		<u>1,114,019</u>	<u>570,924</u>
Net cash from operating activities	9	<u>(25,031,740)</u>	<u>112,008,818</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Settlement sum		-	-
Net cash from investing activities		-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			
		(25,031,740)	112,008,818
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July		<u>114,437,135</u>	<u>2,428,317</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	5	<u>89,405,395</u>	<u>114,437,135</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 21 October 2021.

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)

	2021 \$	2020 \$
4. Revenue		
Donations – RFS	2,563,476	111,154,367
Donations – Brigades	1,019,920	4,903,479
Interest received – RFS	1,052,984	521,303
Interest received – Brigades	61,035	49,621
Other income	(663)	1,496
	<u>4,696,752</u>	<u>116,630,266</u>
5. Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	10	10
Cash at bank	89,405,385	114,437,125
	<u>89,405,395</u>	<u>114,437,135</u>
6. Trade and other receivables		
GST refundable	3,309	35,013
	<u>3,309</u>	<u>35,013</u>
7. Trade and other payables		
Distributions held in trust	5,689,795	5,806,250
Other creditors	32,175	31,900
	<u>5,721,970</u>	<u>5,838,150</u>
8. Accumulated surplus		
Accumulated surplus at beginning of period	108,633,988	523,744
Net (deficit)/surplus	(24,947,264)	108,110,244
Accumulated surplus at the end of period	<u>83,686,724</u>	<u>108,633,988</u>
9. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities		
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net (deficit)/surplus for the period	(24,947,264)	108,110,244
<i>Change in assets and liabilities during the financial year:</i>		
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	31,704	(33,649)
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	(116,180)	3,932,223
Net cash from operating activities	<u>(25,031,740)</u>	<u>112,008,818</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 year:

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 year (2020: \$Nil).

Trustees

The Trustees did not receive remuneration for their services during the year (2020: \$Nil).

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.

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Payable		
- not later than 12 months	46,146,123	87,000,000
- later than 12 months but not later than five years	30,563,405	18,000,000
- later than five years	-	-
	<u>76,709,528</u>	<u>105,000,000</u>

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 Trustees 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"):

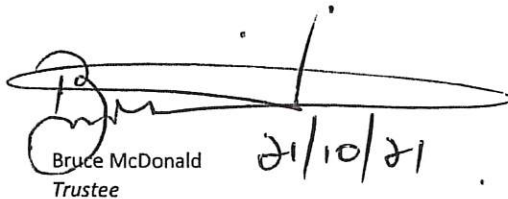
- (a) the accompanying financial statement of the Trust are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund for the year ended 30 June 2021 and the state of affairs of the Trust as at that date, and comply with the provisions of 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 21st day of October 2021.

Signed in accordance with a Resolution of the Trustee:



Andrew Macdonald
Trustee



Bruce McDonald
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 2021, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021 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 2021 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



Strategic Audit Services
Chartered Accountants

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 Balam
Director

Sydney Olympic Park.

21 October 2021.

Principal
Shama Balam

Bella Vista
Suite 406, 33 Lexington Drive
Bella Vista NSW 2153

Postal
PO Box 7999
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

Ph: (02) 8882 9188
Fax: (02) 8882 9177

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 2021 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.

21 October 2021.

Principal
Shama Balram

Bella Vista
Suite 406, 33 Lexington Drive
Bella Vista NSW 2153

Postal
PO Box 7999
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
Ph: (02) 8882 9188
Fax: (02) 8882 9177

Strategic Audit Services Pty
Ltd

ACN: 139 121 841

