

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

\$3.2 million injection to NSW Rural Fire Service's firefighting power in the Tamworth electorate

27 September 2004

Rural Fire Service brigades in the Tamworth region will receive \$3,262,197 in funding this year to ensure volunteer firefighters are better equipped and adequately prepared for the pending bushfire season.

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper welcomed the allocation which was announced in broad terms in the 2004/2005 NSW budget and detailed today by the Minister for Emergency Services, Tony Kelly.

"I'm pleased to see the Tamworth electorate will share \$3.26 million of the \$134.2 million which has been allocated to brigades statewide for investment in equipment, resources, accommodation, training and support," Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper said the intense and ongoing drought conditions across most of NSW had led to an early start to the official start of the Bush Fire Danger Period this year meaning a longer season on the fire ground for volunteers.

"The fires on the Moonbi ranges in the summer of 2002 reminded us how vulnerable certain pockets of the region are to the threat of fire. Our volunteers do an outstanding job and additional resources are the best weapon we can give them to prepare for, monitor, respond to and control fire emergencies on any scale," he said.

Highlights of the \$3.26 million include (by Local Government Area):

Tamworth Regional Council

- \$419,338 for two new Category One tankers
- \$308,814 for three new Category Seven tankers
- \$33,700 towards the construction of a new brigade station for the Moore Creek RFB
- \$81,645 for personal Protective Equipment

Walcha Council

- \$100,572 for one new Category Seven tanker

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- \$19,800 towards the construction and/or renovation of the Flaggs Niangala brigade station
- \$20,000 for Personal Protective Equipment

Gunnedah Shire Council

- \$110,000 for a good quality second hand Category One tanker
- \$25,00 towards the construction and/or renovation of the Carroll Fire Brigade station
- 23,00 for Personal Protective Equipment

End Release

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