



## MEDIA RELEASE

20 February 2024

### Parliamentary Committee inquires into NSW Rural Fire Service assets and operations

The NSW Rural Fire Service (the NSW RFS) plays a critical role in protecting the people of NSW from the dangers of bushfires. With the bushfire season underway, the Public Accounts Committee is inquiring into the effectiveness of the NSW RFS's asset management and operations.

In particular, the parliamentary committee will examine the arrangements for the assets, premises and funding of the NSW RFS. These assets and premises include:

- the Red Fleet;
- firefighting aircrafts and equipment;
- buildings and fire control centres;
- and information systems and communication equipment used for operating emergency services, and more.

"We understand that many firefighting assets are 'vested' with councils to operate and maintain. This inquiry will be looking at the current arrangements between the NSW RFS and councils and whether they are effective and fit for purpose", said Mr Jason Yat-Sen Li, Committee Chair.

"The Committee wants to hear from people with first-hand experience, emergency service organisations and their volunteer associations and unions, local councils, bushfire experts, community groups and the public," said Mr Li.

The Committee will also consider service arrangements between the NSW RFS and local councils, the appropriate role of local authorities in providing emergency services and the sustainability of local government contributions to emergency service provision.

As the lead combat agency, the NSW RFS has responsibilities for the provision of rural fire services including services for the prevention, mitigation and suppression of fires in rural districts. It works closely with local councils who have fire prevention responsibilities within their local government area and in which the NSW RFS brigades operate. How the NSW RFS and local councils share responsibilities for bushfire management and hazard reduction is a key area of interest for the inquiry.

The closing date for submissions is **10 May 2024**.

For more information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference and information on making a submission, see the Committee's [webpage](#).

**Media contact: Mr Jason Yat-Sen Li MP, Chair**

**(02) 9747 1711**

**[PublicAccountsCommittee.PAC@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:PublicAccountsCommittee.PAC@parliament.nsw.gov.au)**

