



# RFS

## Inquiry into the electricity outages affecting Far West NSW in October 2024

### Supplementary questions - NSW Rural Fire Service

#### Supplementary question

1. From speaking with residents in the Far West region, the Committee heard that not every RFS brigade was part of the LEMC or REMC.

- a. How is this decided? Is there any reason that a brigade would not be part of these committees?
- b. What are the RFS policies on its involvement in the LEMC or REMC?

#### RFS response

The *State Emergency Rescue Management Act 1989* (NSW) (SERM Act) sets emergency management arrangements in NSW. These arrangements include who chairs and is represented on the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and the Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC).

The SERM Act establishes an LEMC for each local government area, and an REMC for each regional area (based on police regions). It provides that these committees include a senior representative of each emergency services organisation operating in the relevant area.

The RFS is represented on these committees. For an LEMC, it is represented by the District Manager (the District second in command is the alternate representative), and for an REMC it is represented by the Area Commander (the Area Capability Manager is the alternate representative).

Brigades would not normally sit on an LEMC, as the representation of this committee is far greater than individual brigade areas. Brigades can raise matters through their chain of command to be presented at the LEMC where appropriate.

As emergency management committees are fundamental components of the emergency management arrangements in NSW, the RFS has representation on all relevant LEMCs and REMCs as well as having a dedicated Emergency Management Unit to support these arrangements based out of State Operations at RFS Headquarters.

The RFS had representation on all LEMC and REMC meetings held in relation to the Western NSW Power Outage event of October 2024.