

**Submission
No 9**

ASSETS, PREMISES AND FUNDING OF THE NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I have only been a volunteer for a few years but have worked in local Govt for 20+yr prior to my now job...

I see a major issue with the councils being 'owner's of assets' rather than the NSW govt RFS corporate. RFS dictates what assets must be bought and used etc but dictates council to pay for it... thats fine for larger financially viable councils, however many councils especially west of dividing range dont have the cash available to do so. We recently were told that there was no money left to change air filters in our truck that were badly worn/blocked and took council mechanic 2 weeks to replace , and that as volunteers we are responsible to 'blow out' the filters after use... we only have 9 active members that turn up - none are mechanics.

Many smaller community brigades dont care about helping anymore as they only get old second hand equipment when they see coastal brigades get new trucks and retro fit themout themselves with everything from a fridge to coffee machines. There is no standardisation of trucks- its whoever can afford the most gets to whatever they want. - its creates a feeling of why bother.

there desperately needs to be a big picture/whole service system rather than let the best person win.

there also needs to be a HONEST review of volunteer numbers- in teh small country briagde im involved in there is approx 40 people onthe books, of that 2 live 500km away several havent been seen anywhere near a rfs asset in over ten years, i know of anitehr brigade who has members listed, one lives in USA, one in a nursing home and one is deceased... the 70k volunteers is a complete falsehood.