

## **ASSETS, PREMISES AND FUNDING OF THE NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**

**Organisation:** Byron Shire Council

**Date Received:** 10 May 2024

Byron Shire Council writes in support of the LGNSW submission and recommendations relating to the funding, maintenance, accounting and operational management of NSW Rural Fire Service assets and premises.

The points articulated in the LGNSW Submission align strongly with Council's position on the key issues and concerns relating to RFS assets and Council strongly supports the LGNSW Recommendations that the Public Accounts Committee:

1. support amendment of section 119 of the Rural Fires Act 1997 to clearly set out that the red fleet assets are vested in the RFS. This should be done in the near term.
2. recommend that the Rural Fires Act 1997 be subject to a comprehensive review as noted above.
3. recommend that the review of the Act should investigate and redefine the respective roles, responsibilities and functional arrangements of the RFS and local government.
4. recommend that lead responsibility for bushfires be transferred from local government to the RFS to reflect current practice.
5. recommend that the negotiation of new Service Agreements be further delayed until the Act review has been completed.
6. support the removal of the ESL on insurance and local government, to be replaced by a broad-based property levy.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require additional information.