



INQUIRY INTO NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. That General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 inquire into and report upon the adequacy of fire suppression services provided by the NSW Rural Fire Service to rural communities in NSW, and in particular:
 - (a) The appropriateness of the Government's expenditure on rural fire tankers and other fire fighting equipment for the NSW Rural Fire Service;
 - (b) The appropriateness and adequacy of fire fighting apparatus available to the Rural Fire Fighting Service in NSW;
 - (c) The adequacy of stakeholder representation in the operations of the NSW Rural Fire Service within:
 - (i) Various statutory bodies at the State level;
 - (ii) Executive management level;
 - (iii) Technical level.
 - (d) The provision and adequacy of fire fighter training and personal protective equipment to:
 - (i) Meet the health, safety and welfare requirements of rural firefighters;
 - (ii) Perform effective fire suppression.
 - (e) The appropriateness of the command and control system in the suppression of bush and other fires on:
 - (i) Providing effective coordination of resource allocation within the NSW Rural Fire Service;
 - (ii) Providing for accountability arrangements for Fire Control Officers to both the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service and General Managers of Local Councils;
 - (iii) Selecting and appointing those people charged with the responsibility and management of suppression action against fires;
 - (iv) Taking into account the recognition and utilisation of appropriate local knowledge and skills.
 - (f) Any other matter arising out of or incidental to the above.
2. That the Committee report to the House its findings on the first sitting day of the Parliament in 2000.