



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Mr Matthew Hansen
 Director of Corporate Services
 Berrigan Shire Council
 PO Box 137
BERRIGAN NSW 2712

Your reference: 09.160.2 MH:AFS
 Our reference: DOC16/48086

10 January 2017

Dear Mr Hansen

I refer to your letter to Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM dated 16 December 2016 reference to changes affecting the existing NSW RFS Zoning arrangements for Berrigan and the former Corowa Council. Commissioner Fitzsimmons has asked that I respond on his behalf.

The NSW RFS prioritises ensuring service delivery remains unchanged, with minimal impact to our local brigades and volunteers in support of their valuable contribution to local communities. The NSW RFS gave a commitment to our volunteer members and key stakeholders that changes made as a result of any council amalgamation would be considered, measured, and only after local volunteer consultation. I am informed that a number of consultation sessions were undertaken with affected parties prior to the confirmation to include Federation Council into the Southern Boarder Team.

I am encouraged to note the desire by the parties to develop a new zoning agreement, which will encompass the existing Berrigan and new Federation Council. Please feel free to make contact with the Regional Manager Chief Superintendent Ken Hall to assist in the zoning process. Chief Superintendent Hall can be contacted at (02) 4472 4165 or ken.hall@rfs.nsw.gov.au

I note your concerns regarding the increase in members and brigade numbers following the council amalgamation. The new structure results in an additional eight Brigades (215 volunteers) to the overall Southern Boarder Team. Prior to confirming the management arrangements for the Federation Council, in consultation with Region and Local Management I am satisfied that staffing levels within the Southern Boarder Team meet the expectant need. Notwithstanding similar to Local Government, NSW RFS districts share resources and provide support to our members regardless of the district boundaries.

In addition to the district staffing in the Southern Boarder Team, Region South also has two staff located at the Albury Office who are available to, and previously assisted the Southern Border Team as required.

Should you have any further queries please contact Superintendent Westwood on (02) 6051 1511 or at Patrick.westwood@rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Jason Heffernan
 Assistant Commissioner
 Director Regional Services

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