



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



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

Your ref: 09.160.2 MH:AFS
 Our ref: DOC16/48082

BERRIGAN SHIRE COUNCIL

- 7 SEP 2017

FILE _____

REPORT TO DCS

COPY TO _____

ACTION / CODE _____

ACKNOWLEDGE Y / N _____

Dear Mr Hanson

RE: Rural Fire Service

I refer to your correspondence of October and December 2016. I apologise for the delay in responding, however there have been substantial changes in the statutory framework underpinning NSW RFS funding which required resolution to allow me to respond effectively.

Thank you for forwarding the concerns raised by your Council in respect of the revised allocation methodology implemented in 2016-17. Whilst it may be argued that the allocation methodology is not perfect, in my view it constitutes a significant improvement from the model it replaced and addresses many of the concerns raised repeatedly by Councils across NSW. The NSW RFS, through its Chief Financial Officer, would be happy to hear your suggestions on how adjustments to the allocation methodology could be implemented to address the issue you have raised whilst maintaining simplicity and consistency.

I note your attendance at the Local Government Forum in Wagga Wagga on 29 September 2016, and thank you for your participation. As you would be aware, resulting from the concerns raised at Local Government Forums, I wrote to Council in December 2016 regarding the NSW Rural Fire Fighting Fund, and advised that your Council would receive a \$9,334 transition grant to address any change in statutory contribution between 2015-16 and 2016-17. This grant acknowledged the concern raised in your correspondence regarding late notice of the change. This grant was paid on 20 December 2016.

You would no doubt be aware that amendments to the *Rural Fires Act 1997* result in statutory contributions now being administered and collected through the Office of State Revenue. An assessment notice was provided to all Councils across the State in respect of their statutory contributions for 2017-18 by the Office of State Revenue prior to 30 April 2017.

Postal address

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 Locked Bag 17
 GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Street address

NSW Rural Fire Service
 15 Carter Street
 LIDCOMBE NSW 2141

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Should you require additional information, or to further discuss this matter, the contact officer is Mr Stephen O'Malley, Chief Financial Officer who is available on 02 8741 5523 or via email at stephen.omalley@rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S Fitzsimmons', written in a cursive style.

24-8-17

Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM
Commissioner