



GENERAL

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As QFRS Rural Operations moves forward with a greatly enhanced structure and staffing, as well as a better capacity to support our volunteers and the community, it is pleasing to see the progress being made through the new development of the Rural Fire Brigade Manual. This release of the Manual is a major step in the process of ensuring consistent and effective service delivery.

Rural Operations encompasses a group of people and a body of expertise integral to wildfire planning, mitigation and management across Queensland. Rural fire brigades provide coverage to 93% of this state and brigade members and fire wardens are very proud of and professional in the services they provide to their communities. Permanent staff at central office and the regional and area offices are equally dedicated and professional and are very supportive to the 1,529 rural fire brigades and the 2,660 fire wardens.

Despite the importance of the Rural Fire Brigade Manual in guiding our non-emergency activities and service delivery at the brigade level, it is more than just a manual. The development of the Manual has allowed us to identify and describe what we do and to ensure that the fundamental principles of engaging with the rural community for effective fire management – our unique area of expertise – are clearly defined and firmly placed within the QFRS context.

To ensure that the information and tools remain accurate, current and useful, all facets of the Manual will be subject to ongoing review. A revised Fire Warden Manual will also be developed in collaboration with volunteers; this suite of manuals will be revised and released each year.

I acknowledge the contribution that a large number of people have made to the development of the new Brigade Manual so far, and I urge everyone to continue this positive approach and to participate in the ongoing development of our unique organisation.

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Assistant Commissioner, Rural Operations