



RURAL FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INC. ABN. 37 417 474 709

2021 General Manager's Annual Report

Over the last 12 months the RFBAQ has gifted 7 Landcruisers to brigades without a truck and the 8th will be delivered 2 weeks after this meeting to Kunwarara RFB in Central Region. 2 town heavy attacks for Burketown and Birdsville RFB's, almost 400 handheld thermal imaging cameras, 3 hardship grants for brigade members in need and 20 standard RFBAQ grants for brigades.

This adds up to over \$2 million dollars in grants paid and equipment provided since the last annual report and we have also committed to \$500,000 for solar powered Fire Danger Rating signs with community messaging boards. This is also a RFBAQ initiative.

Add onto that the ground breaking work the RFBAQ has done on crew safety initiatives with the Innovation Platform, which will then be given to a brigade; the commencement of the Fusion 'cruiser, which will create a light attack that meets brigade needs coupled with being the safest firefighting platform yet designed and you can really see what a small organisation that is answerable to its members can do.

The previous 12 months has also seen the first use of the RFBAQ Diligence Officer. A position created in 2012 with the restructure of the RFBAQ to ensure that any complaints against members of the management committee are independently investigated by an elected RFBAQ representative who is not on the management committee. Les Green as Diligence Officer did a great and quick job in handling the complaint in June '21 that was received from a brigade member and Les received high praise from the complainant for his speedy and ameliorative work. This is another example of a small organisation that is motivated to achieve for its members.

The KPMG report into the QFES will be handed to the government towards the end of this month and I think that this is the best opportunity in over 30 years for brigades to regain their power in making local community defence decisions. The RFBAQ position is one that was voted on at the special meeting in August 2020 and we are the only organisation that had a model for the future and the ability to promote it and stand by it publicly.

Other associations and unions have made submissions to KPMG, but we are the only ones who have made ours available.

The \$260,000 loss this financial year is much less than that forecast in last years AGM and this is due to ticket sales and donation remaining strong in-spite of covid.

The money that came in through the 2019/20 fire season has been turned into assets and those assets are now moving off our books and will continue to do so in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years. The culmination of these planned handovers and projects is the handover of the Fusion 'cruiser at Volunteer Summit in June 2023 where a brigade without a truck will fly down to summit and drive home in a brigade owned Landcruiser light attack and the erection of the solar powered FDR signs with the new fire danger rating segments.