## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Fire Permits**

## 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023

From Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) will commence issuing fire permits for landholders located in the Temora and Bland Local Government Areas.

NSW RFS Operational Officer Jason Bortolazzo said the decision to commence the issuing of fire permits had been made in order to allow local landholders to manage their properties for agricultural purposes.

"Landholders must ensure that they've obtained a fire permit as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2023 and any necessary environmental approval, as well as notify neighbours and fire authorities 24 hours before lighting up. Notifications must also be completed online using the online portal which can be found on the RFS website <a href="https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP/burn-notifications">https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP/burn-notifications</a>, which is the permit holder's responsibilities'

"Local landholders are reminded that the Bush Fire Danger Period does not end until the 31<sup>st</sup> March and that the threat of grass fires still remains a real possibility. Landholders are encouraged to exercise caution when using fire for agricultural purposes and to not leave fires unattended," Operational Officer Bortolazzo said.

"An escaped burn can quickly spread and threaten life and property.

"Before lighting any fire you need to have adequately prepared fire breaks and have firefighting equipment on hand to ensure the fire does not escape", Operational Officer Bortolazzo said.

Serious penalties, including fines and/or imprisonment, apply for failing to observe fire permit conditions or starting a fire without a permit during the Bush Fire Danger Period.

Fire permits can be obtained from your local Rural Fire Brigade or by contacting the Bland Temora Fire Control Centre on (02) 6977 4737.

Members of the public are encouraged to only report unattended fires to triple zero (000).

