

From: s47E(d)
To: s47F s47E(d)
Cc: s22
Subject: 190213:1444 - Fire bombing aircraft to RAAF Richmond
Date: Wednesday, 13 February 2019 2:44:00 PM

UNCLASSIFIED

s47F

No problems from an Access perspective. s22

s22

s22

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Assistant Base Support Manager – RAAF Richmond
East West Zone / Service Delivery Division
Estate & Infrastructure Group

Department of Defence

RAAF Base Richmond | RAAF Base Glenbrook | Defence Establishment Orchard Hills |

T: s47E(d) M: s22 E: s47E(d)

Group Mailbox s47E(d)

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From: s47F @rfs.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 13 February 2019 2:26 PM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Cc: s22

s22

s22

s22

Subject: Fire bombing aircraft to RAAF Richmond

Good afternoon,

With the current fire emergency occurring in Northern NSW the NSW RFS Commissioner has requested extra firefighting aircraft from Victoria.

B390 (Hercules)

B391 (RJ)

BD 376 (AERO Commander)

Have been requested to depart from Avalon loaded with Retardant to Tingha (near

Inverell) then to return and reload out of RAAF Richmond. Approximately ETA 1600.
s22

We would envisage with flight fatigue hours that the aircraft would be required to overnight at RAAF Richmond. Landed no later than 1 hour after last light tonight. These aircraft all have been on base before. Most of the pilots but I can't guarantee all. We would escort the others.

I would appreciate your approval for this matter at your earliest convenience .

Regards
s47F

s47F | Operations Officer | Aviation
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2141 | Locked Bag 17 Granville NSW 2142
P s47F **F** s47F **M** s22 **E** s47F [@rfs.nsw.gov.au](https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)
State Air Desk 24 Hour Fire Aviation Dispatch Line P 1300 677 723 F 02 8741 5301
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au | www.facebook.com/nswrfs | www.twitter.com/nswrfs
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s22



From: s47F [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@rfs.nsw.gov.au)>
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2019 5:28 PM
To: s47E(d) [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>; s47E(d) [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>; s47E(d) [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>
Cc: s22 [redacted]
Subject: RE: NSW RFS Large Air Tanker operations

Good afternoon,

Just following up on our meeting in May and subsequent discussions regarding the proposed long term requirements (hangar/infrastructure).

It would be appreciated if you are able to provide an update at the earliest opportunity.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you require further information or wish to discuss.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance.

Regards,

s47F [redacted]
Manager State Operations & Aviation
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
State Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127 | Locked Bag 17
Granville NSW 2142

P s47F M s22 E s47F @rfs.nsw.gov.au
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au | www.facebook.com/nswrfs | www.twitter.com/nswrfs
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From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2019 12:55
To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d)
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au s47E(d) @defence.gov.au
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: NSW RFS Large Air Tanker operations

Good afternoon,

Just following up on our meeting in May and subsequent discussions regarding the proposed long term requirements (hangar/infrastructure).

It would be appreciated if you are able to provide an update at the earliest opportunity.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you require further information or wish to discuss.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance.

Regards,

s47F
Manager State Operations & Aviation
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
State Headquarters 15 Carter Street Lidcombe NSW 2141 | Locked Bag 17 Granville NSW 2142
P s47F M s22 E s47F @rfs.nsw.gov.au
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au | www.facebook.com/nswrfs | www.twitter.com/nswrfs
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From: s47F
Sent: Thursday, 23 May 2019 14:01
To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d)
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au s47E(d) @defence.gov.au
Cc: s22
Subject: NSW RFS Large Air Tanker operations
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

Please accept my thanks for your time earlier this week to discuss NSW RFS Large Air Tanker operations at RAAF Base Richmond.

As discussed, a revised DACC request has been submitted to JOSS NSW for the 2019/20 season seeking similar support to that provided during past seasons.

Attached is a presentation regarding our Large Air Tanker which also summarises the longer term requirements/support being sought.

Once you have considered this presentation, could you please advise when you are next available to meet.

Should you wish to discuss or require further information in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance.

Regards,

s47F
Manager State Operations & Aviation
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
State Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127 | Locked Bag 17
Granville NSW 2142
P s47F **M** s22 **E** s47F [@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:s47F@rfs.nsw.gov.au)
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au | www.facebook.com/nswrfs | www.twitter.com/nswrfs
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Name: [REDACTED]
 SSN: 522 [REDACTED]
 Address: [REDACTED]
 City: [REDACTED]
 State: [REDACTED]
 Zip: [REDACTED]
 Date: [REDACTED]
 Signature: [REDACTED]
 Title: [REDACTED]

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Good afternoon all,

As discussed today, please find attached the power point/background information discussed at the initial meeting in May 2019.

H-547E (please let me know if you need any further information in order to complete the required documentation)

Thanks again for your assistance.

Regards,

647F
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NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



LARGE AIR TANKER OPERATIONS

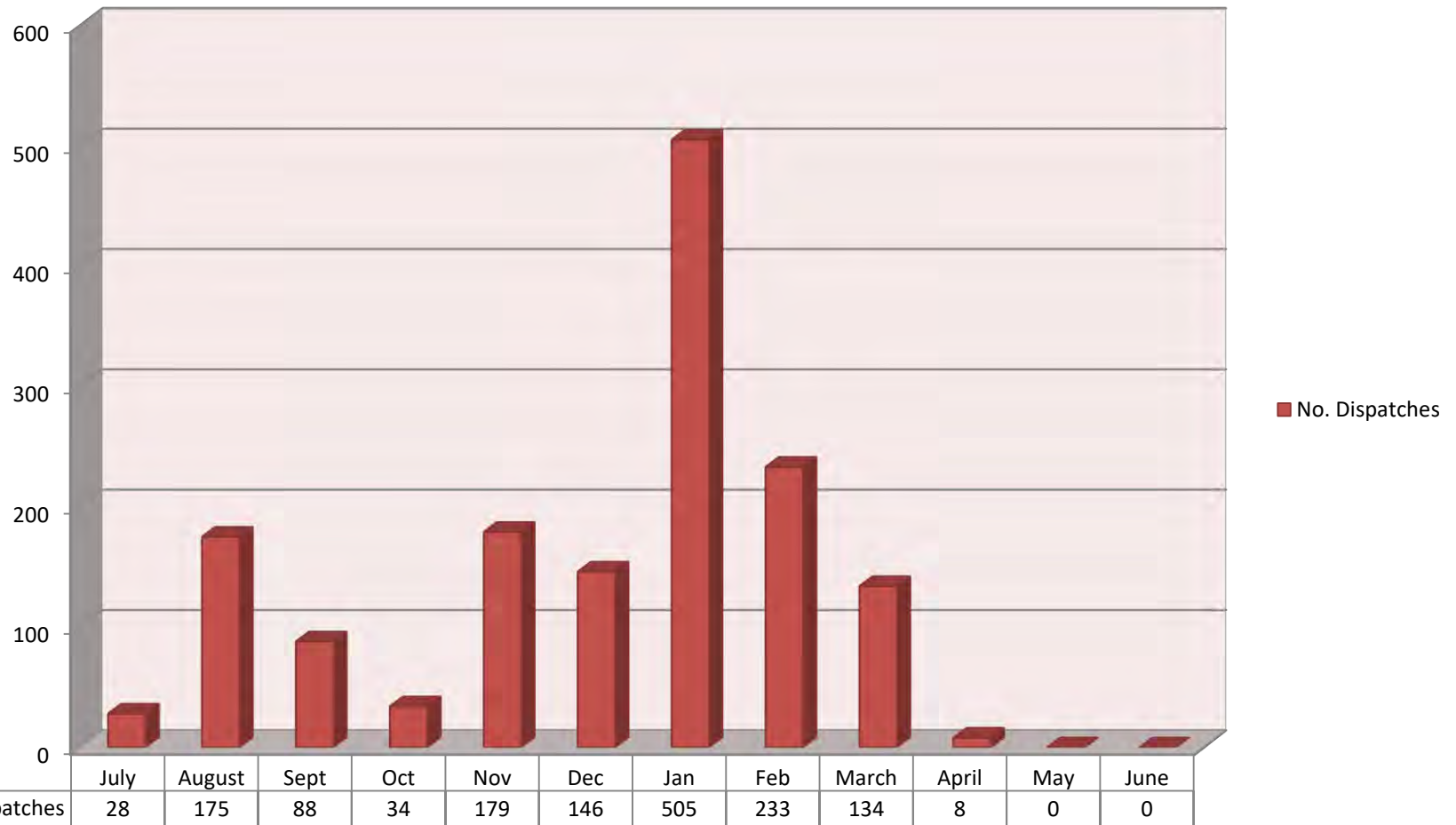
Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers AFSM

2018/19 Review (as at 31 March 2019)

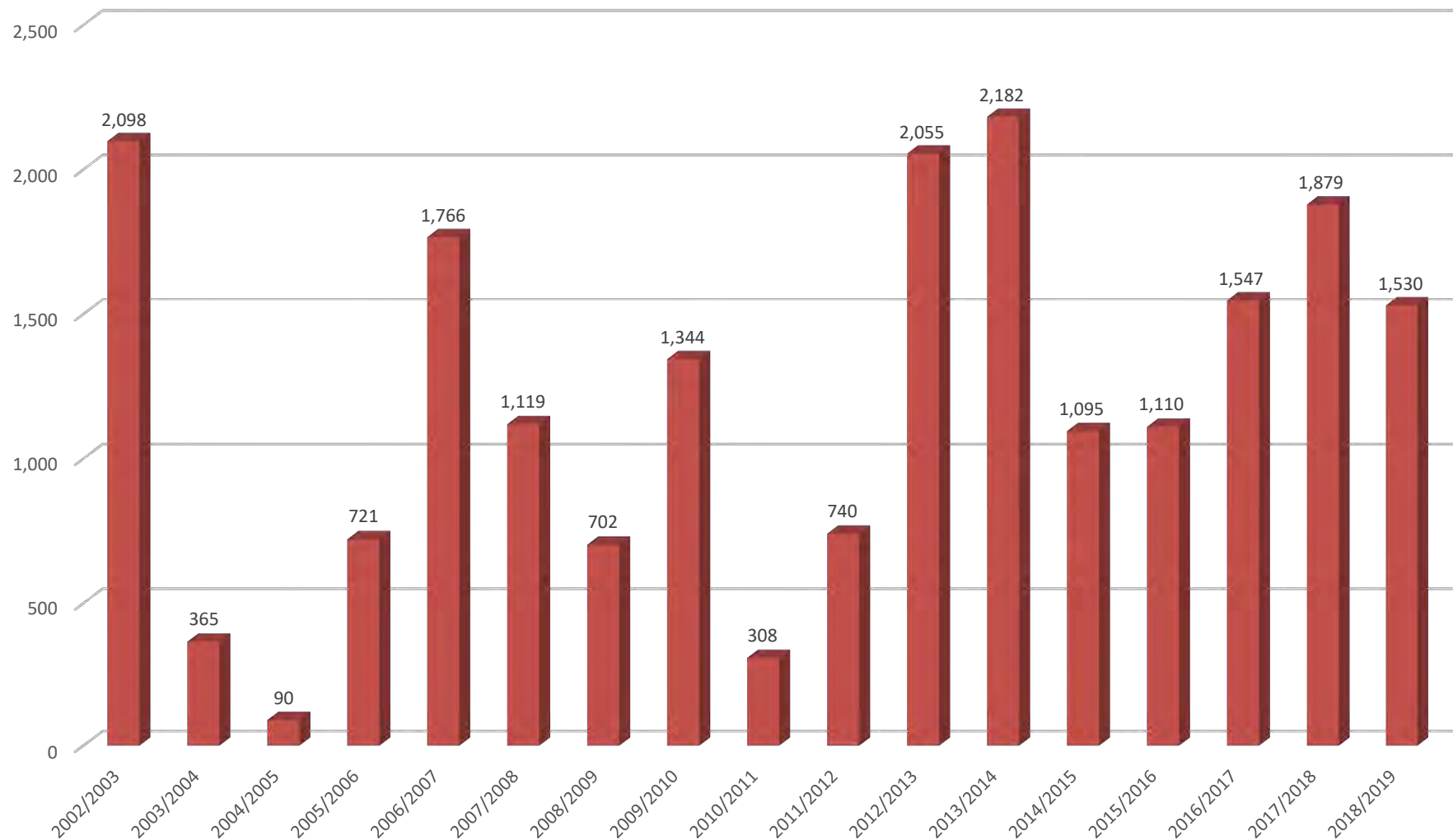
- **12,205** Bush & Grass Fires burning **281 860** hectares across the State
- **50,581** Fire Fighters deployed across the State
- **21** days of Total Fire Bans & **15** Section 44 Declarations
- **13** Emergency Warnings & **32** Watch & Act fires
- **1** fatality (fire fighting pilot)
- **37** Habitable Structures Destroyed, **27** Habitable Structures Damaged & **147** Outbuildings Destroyed
- **1,504** Aircraft taskings & **77** RART deployments

Aviation Dispatches – 2018/19 season

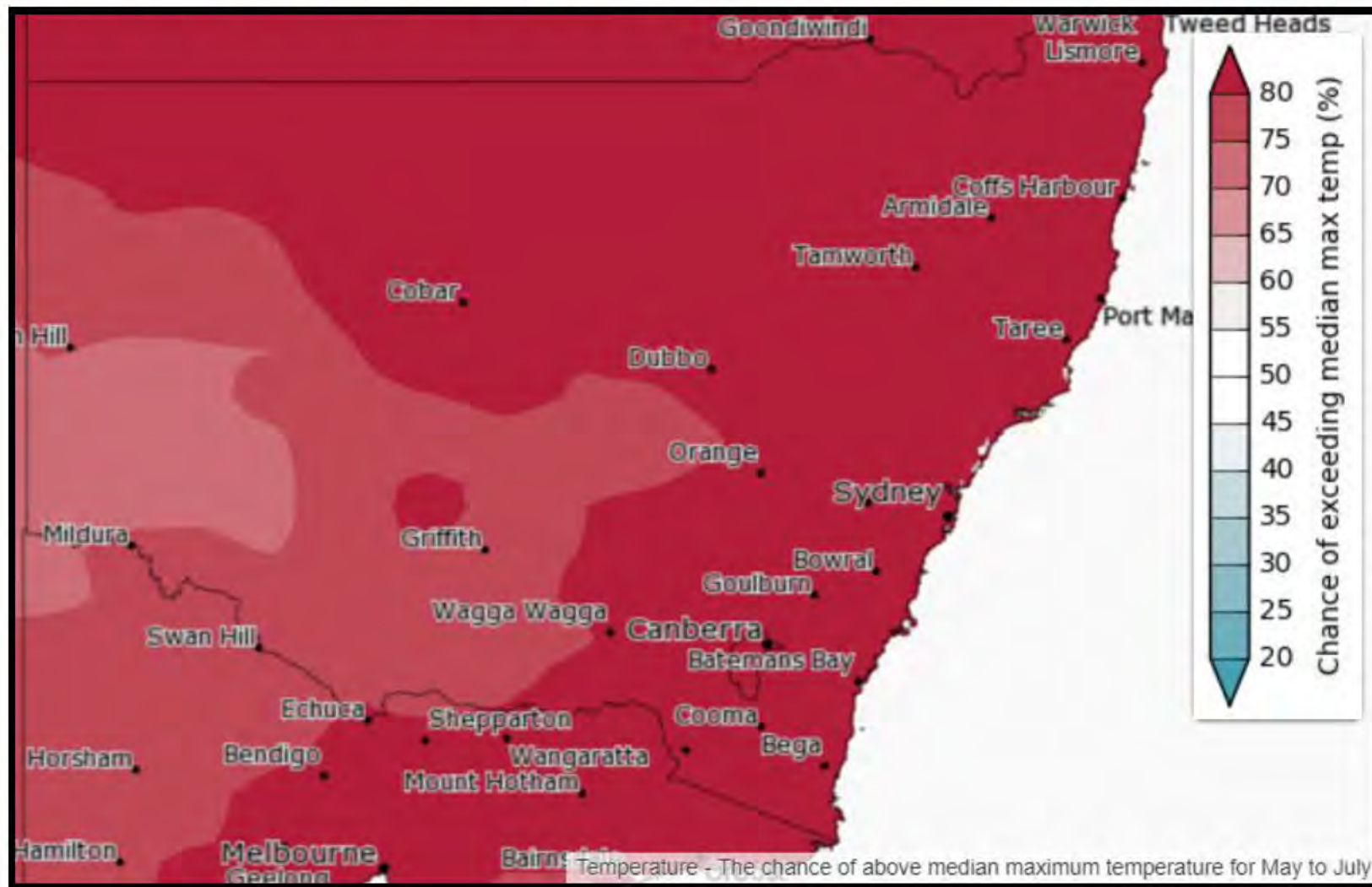
Number of Aviation Dispatches by Month



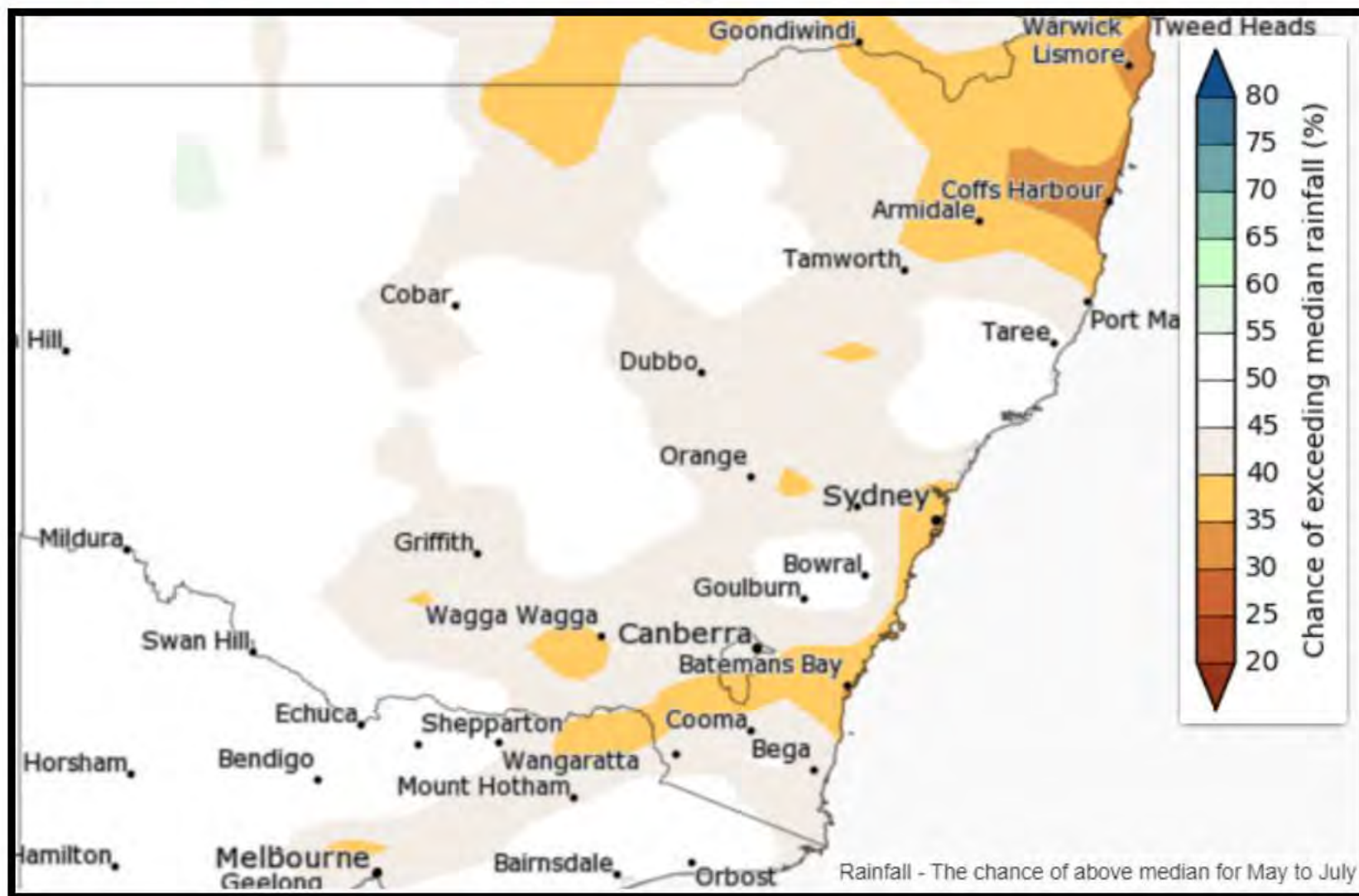
Aviation Dispatches – 2002/03 to 2018/19



Temperature Outlook – May to July 2019




Rainfall Outlook – May to July 2019



Large Air Tanker Program

- The NSW RFS first introduced Large Air Tanker (LAT) operations in 2015 and have operated primarily from RAAF Base Richmond under DACC arrangements.
- These aircraft are seasonally contracted from overseas and have significantly enhanced fire fighting capabilities across the State and beyond.
- The NSW RFS has evaluated a number of different Large and Very Large Air Tankers over recent fire seasons and settled on the '737' as the preferred option, operated by Canadian company Coulson Aviation.
- NSW will have now procured a '737 Fireliner' LAT and will be the only Australian jurisdiction with a permanent aircraft to provide greater coverage all year around.

Large Air Tanker Program

- The new LAT will protect communities and fire fighters as part of a \$26.3 million investment in community safety and emergency services.
- The aircraft can deliver 15,000 litres of fire suppressants, transport about 70 firefighters and operate from several regional airports.
- s22
- The new aircraft is expected to arrive in Australia in mid July 2019 in addition to two Lead Planes (which are expected to arrive in August/September 2019).





Coulson 737 Fireliner Airtanker

Type 1 Airtanker
Primary role: firebombing
Other roles: crew and cargo transport
Two pilot crew, up to 72 passengers
RADS-XXL/2 constant flow firebombing system
15,142 litre retardant capacity
Cruise speed (loaded) up to 850km/h
Typical cruise altitude (loaded) 25,000 feet
Typical runway required 1,950m
33m length, 31.2m wingspan
Up to 61,700kg gross weight
2 x 9,100kg thrust CFM 56-3 turbo fan engines
Jet-A1 fuel consumption up to 3,400 litres/hr
2+ fire agency radios, Satellite tracking

The Coulson 737 Fireliner is a modification of a Boeing 737-300 passenger transport aircraft. The Boeing 737 is the most produced passenger jetliner and is used by airlines, cargo and military operators around the world.

Coulson Aviation have designed and certified a modification to the B737 to integrate a 4,300 US gallon firebombing system. This system is a derivative of the Coulson RADS-XXL system carried in C130 and L100 airtankers which is a derivative of the well regarded Aero Union RADS 1 firebombing tank. A 15,142 litre load of fire retardant solution can be carried on board the aircraft. The RADS-XXL/2 system splits this load between two tanks systems, one forward and one aft of the wings. The GPS linked computer controlled firebombing system delivers a constant flow of fire retardant or suppressant to the target area. The B737 has the capability to carry an on-board system for mixing fire suppressant solutions so it can operate from remote airfields where only water is available.

The B737 airtanker has been tested by fire agencies in North America, and in Australia will be used primarily for firebombing. It can be utilised for both initial attack of new fires with fire suppressant solutions, and line building with fire retardant on larger fires. Its flexibility enables the B737 to work in both the urban interface and remote areas such as parks and forests. In addition to its firebombing role the B737 airtanker is has the capability to transport passengers and cargo – use in these roles is subject to local regulatory approval.

The B737 can operate from many airfields across Australia. On a 40 degree Celsius day with a full retardant load and 3 hours of fuel the aircraft requires a 2,300m runway. Shorter runways can be utilised with less fuel, a lighter load, or on cooler days.

The B737 airtanker operates alongside other fire fighting aircraft to support fire fighting crews on the ground. Carried on board the aircraft are sophisticated communication and tracking equipment that keep the aircraft in constant contact with other aircraft and the fire agency crews managing fires on the ground.

The New South Wales Government has contracted, through NAFC, one Coulson 737 Fireliner Airtanker for the 2018-19 fire season. Aircraft in the national aerial fire fighting fleet are available for use across all states and territories of Australia.



Version 006 © www.nafc.org.au © NAFC 2013

2019/20 Season Requirements

- In accordance with the existing DACC agreement, the NSW RFS is again seeking assistance from RAAF Base Richmond:
 - Hangar and parking space for LAT and supporting aircraft
 - *Hangar 609 and grassed area to the east & west*
 - Use of aircraft wash down facilities
 - Access to fuel and refuelling services
 - Access to base for RFS external fuel supplier
 - Storage space for fire retardant and associated mixing equipment
 - Access to water supply
 - LAT crew and ground/support staff facilities
 - Aircrew office and briefing space
 - *MEMOS building*
 - Accommodation and meals as required (up to 20 pax)

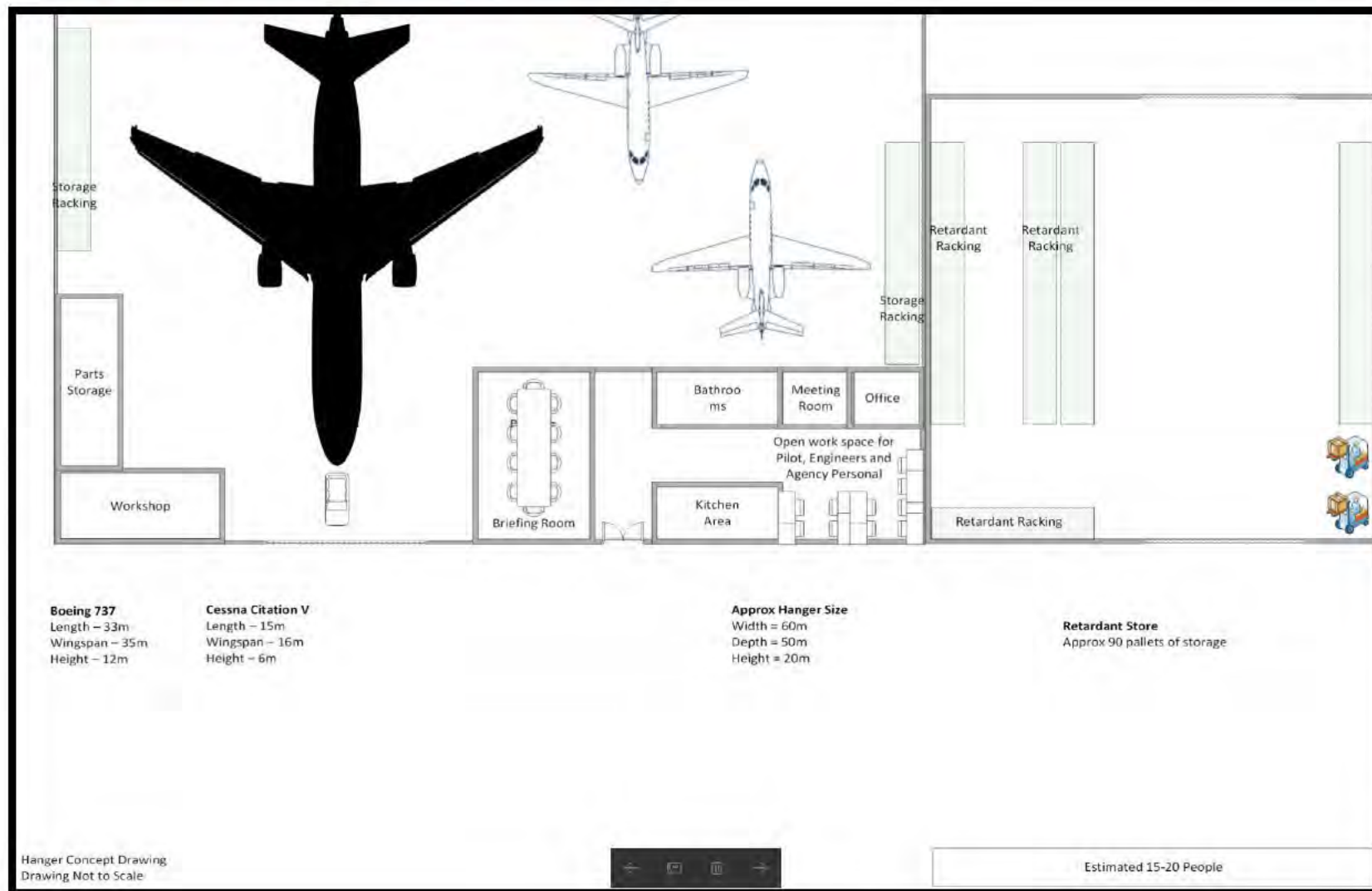




Longer Term Requirements

- In addition to the existing support, the NSW RFS is seeking the co-operation of RAAF Base Richmond to establish permanent facilities consisting of:
 - Pilot, crew, agency personal workspace
 - Briefing room, kitchen and bathrooms
 - Hangar and maintenance area
 - Secure storage area
 - Car parking area
 - Apron and reloading facility
- The preference would be the area near the existing base Fire Station

Proposed Facilities



Funding & Assistance sought

- The NSW RFS has funding available for this project subject to approval.
- Assistance is sought from RAAF Base Richmond for the following aspects of this project:
 - Site assessment and selection
 - Engagement of a building/hangar design & architect
 - Engagement of contractors to build the facility and hangar

Proposed timeline

Date	Action
June 2019	Site Assessment & Selection
September 2019	Formal agreements and funding arrangements executed
October 2019	Design and engagement of contractors
January 2020	Construction commence
July 2020	Construction complete

From: s47F
To: s47E(d)
Subject: RE: Contact details for Permanent RFS s22 members [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 17 December 2021 4:30:34 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s47E(d)

There are no permanent RFS staff located at Richmond.
The 2 primary staff that are there the most are myself and s47F

s47F

s22

s22

s22

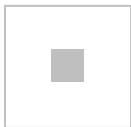
s22



s22



Kind Regards



s47F | Coordinator (Aviation) | Operational Field Support

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2141

P s47F F s47F M s22 E s47F [@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:s47F@rfs.nsw.gov.au)

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From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 16 December 2021 1:32 PM

To: s47F @rfs.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: s22

Subject: Contact details for Permanent RFS s22 members [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47F

Re: Contact Details for Permanent RFS s22 Members

Only need contact details for the permanent RFS s22 staff. Please also provide duty phone numbers and email addresses. Thank you.

Regards

s47E(d)

Base Operations Officer
East West Zone / Service Delivery Division
Security and Estate Group (SEG)

Department of Defence

Ground Floor | Building 14 | RAAF Base Richmond NSW 2753
T: s47E(d) M: s22 E: s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)
Group Mailbox: s47E(d)

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From: s47F [@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:s47F@rfs.nsw.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, 16 December 2021 10:22 AM
To: s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: Contact List for RS s22 members [SEC=OFFICIAL]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. .

Hi s47E(d)

No problems

In regards to the list, are you after the names of those on base at the moment or the regular staff on a day to day basis?

s22

In regards to the RFS staff, the regular members that attend?

Kind Regards



s47F | Coordinator (Aviation) | Operational Field Support
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2141
P s47F F s47F M s22 E s47F [@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:s47F@rfs.nsw.gov.au)
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au | www.facebook.com/nswrfs | www.twitter.com/nswrfs
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From: s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 December 2021 12:43 PM
To: s47F [redacted] <s47F@rfs.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: s22 [redacted]
Subject: Contact List for RFS s22 [redacted] members [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47F [redacted]

Re: Contact List for RFS s22 [redacted] members

-

Please provide an updated list of the RFS s22 [redacted] members. Thank you.

Regards

s47E(d) [redacted]

Base Operations Officer
East West Zone / Service Delivery Division
Security and Estate Group (SEG)

Department of Defence

Ground Floor | Building 14 | RAAF Base Richmond NSW 2753
T: s47E(d) [redacted] M: s22 [redacted] E: s47E(d) [redacted] <[s47E\(d\)@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)>
Group Mailbox: s47E(d) [redacted]

From: s47F
To: s47E(d)
Subject: RE: Hanger 522 Request [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 18 January 2022 2:37:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.jpg](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon All,

The arrival of the C17 and Helicopter has been delayed and is now expected on Tuesday 25 JAN.

Therefore our request for Hanger 522 will now be from 25 Jan to 28 Jan.

Thanks

s47F

s47F | a/Manager | Operational Field Support
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47F Ladies and Gents,

Due to maintenance issues, MSN 22013602 has been delayed by 24 hrs out of RAAF Amberley. As a result the entire MSN is sliding right by 24 hrs.

Details of the new times are as follows:

20 Jan 22 - ETA Travis AFB 2030 hrs
22 Jan 22 - ETD Travis AFB 1320 hrs
24 Jan 22 - ETA RAAF Base AMB 1440 hrs
25 Jan 22 - ETD RAAF Base AMB 1000 hrs
25 Jan 22 - ETA RAAF Base RIC 1150 hrs

Regards,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Warrant Officer Class One
Operations Warrant Officer

Headquarters 1st Joint Movement Unit
s47E(d) PO Box 7928, Canberra BC ACT 2610
Tel: s47E(d), A/H Mob: s22
Duty Officer: s22
Email: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au
Group Email: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

From: s47E(d) [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** RIC ABCP
Sent: Tuesday, 18 January 2022 12:11 PM
To: s47E(d) [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s22 [redacted]
Subject: FW: Hanger 522 Request [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon E&IG,

Please see below request I have liaised with occupants of Hanger 522 and they are fine with this work to go ahead.

P.O.C for hanger 522 s47E(d) [redacted]

Air Base Command Post
RAAF Base Richmond

s47E(d) [redacted]
s47E(d) [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>

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From: s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@rfs.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 January 2022 10:18 AM
To: s47E(d) [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s22 [redacted]
Subject: Hanger 522 Request

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Good Morning,

A RAAF C17 is assisting the NSW RFS with delivering a Bell 412 from the USA to Australia. The C17 is currently expected to arrive on Sunday 23rd.

Could we please request the use of Hanger 522 from Sunday 23rd to Wednesday 26th to reassemble the helicopter? Once reassembled and signed off, the aircraft will depart for Bankstown airport, which will be refitted.

Thanks for your assistance

s47F



s47F | a/Manager | Operational Field Support

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2141 | Locked Bag 17 Granville NSW 2142

P s47F F s47F Ms22 Es47F @rfs.nsw.gov.au

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From: s47F
To: s47E(d) s22 ; s47E(d)
s47E(d) s22 ; s47E(d)
s47E(d)
Cc: s22
Subject: 220620:1140 - RFS Aviation Training
Date: Monday, 20 June 2022 11:40:53 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Sirs/Mams

On behalf of the NSW Rural Fire Service, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation of all the support that your departments provided to our organisation over the weekend to ensure our training of our volunteers operated smoothly and efficiently. s22

s22



If everybody can pass on our thank you and appreciation to all those that were involved in the preparation and organisation of this training event please.

This will be the last operational activity out of our tanker base now until it is moved up under the tower ready for the upcoming infrastructure project.

A bit of feedback from our side.

s22



Thank you all again.

Kind Regards

s47F | Coordinator (Aviation) | Operational Field Support



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2141

PS47F **FS47F** **MS22** **ES47F** [@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@rfs.nsw.gov.au)
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s22



From: s47F [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@rfs.nsw.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2022 1:08 PM
To: s47E(d) [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>
Cc: s22 [redacted]
s22 [redacted]
Subject: RE NSW RFS LAT Return to RAAF Richmond

 **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. 

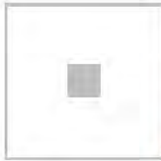
Afternoon team,

I have been advised that the NSW RFS Large Air Tanker has left this morning from the US to return home. This is ahead of its initial proposed return date of 10 December.

We would like the opportunity to film the aircraft landing at Richmond and then its taxi to the hanger. This will be filmed by a NSW RFS officer. I'm advised that this could be possibly on Saturday or Sunday. This is yet to be confirmed.

Please let me know of anything further you require from us.

Regards



s47F | Media and Communications

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127 | Locked Bag 17
Granville NSW 2142

P s47F **F** s47F **M** s22 **E** s47F @rfs.nsw.gov.au

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S47F District Manager | Shoalhaven District
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE Shoalhaven Fire Control Centre 92 Abrahams Road Nowra NSW 2541
PO Box 372 Nowra NSW 2541 | **P S47F** **M S22** **E S47F**
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From: s47F
To: s47E(d) s47F s47E(d)
s47E(d) s47F s47E(d)
Cc: s22
Subject: 231107 1356 - s47F]-[Lamb, Mark FLTL] RFS Operations at RAAF Richmond - SYNC meeting.
Date: Tuesday, 7 November 2023 1:57:45 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[RAAF Base Richmond Briefing_October 2023.pptx FINAL.pdf](#)
Importance: High

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Good afternoon s47E(d) and all,

Thanks again for the opportunity to meet and discuss RFS operations at RAAF Base Richmond which assists greatly with fire-fighting efforts across the State.

I apologise for the delayed reply however we have recently experienced significant bush fire activity impacting various communities in northern NSW.

RFS is extremely grateful for the support provided by RAAF Base Richmond since 2015 which has contributed to the success of the Large Air Tanker program.

Please find attached a copy of the presentation as discussed during the meeting/telephone call.

To enhance timely & appropriate communication between RFS and RAAF Base Richmond, I have implemented the following effective immediately:

- s47F will be the RFS point of contact for the remainder of this season and will work from RAAF Base Richmond at least 3 days per week.
- s47F will meet with appropriate RAAF Base Richmond personnel on a weekly basis to brief regarding bush fire activity, upcoming events etc.
- identified RAAF Base Richmond have been added to our email distribution groups to receive advice regarding major fire activity and Total Fire Ban declarations
- scoping of a bi-monthly meeting between RFS and RAAF Base Richmond senior officers.

To assist, I would ask that all day to day communications be directed to s47F in the first instance (including those that involve Coulson).

I understand discussions regarding the construction of dedicated RFS hangar at RAAF Base Richmond remain ongoing at an Executive level.

Should you require anything further in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing assistance and ability to operate from Richmond.

Regards,

s47F

Director, State Operations



P s47F M s22 E
s47F grfs.nsw.gov.au

Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW
2127

Locked Bag 17 Granville NSW 2142

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au



I respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



RFS



RAAF Base Richmond

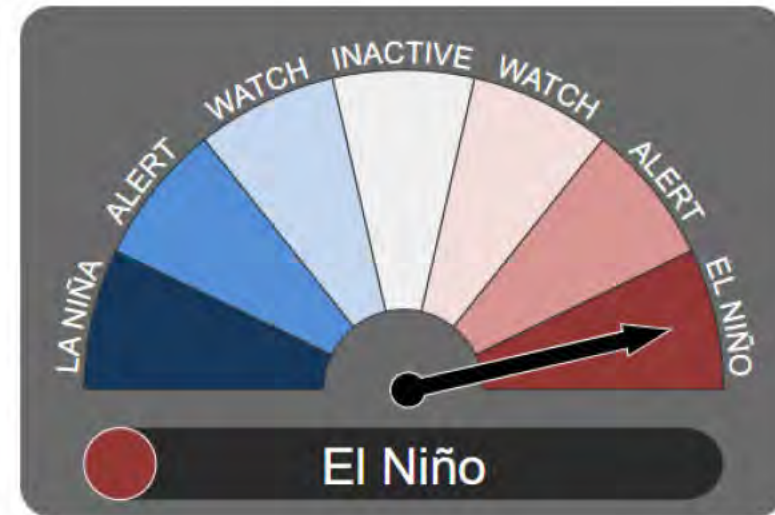
October 2023





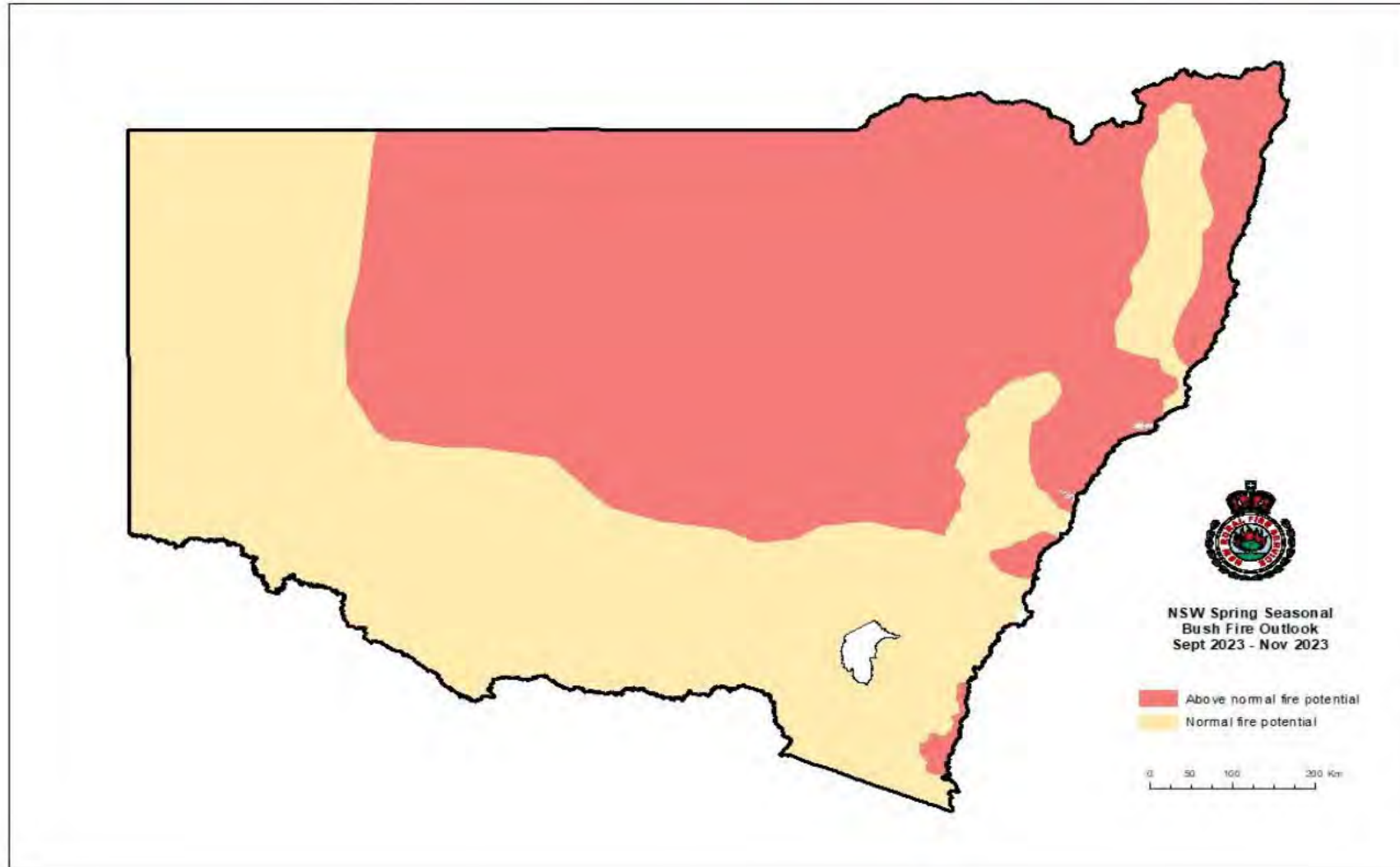
2023/24 Season Outlook

- NSW has experienced three years of above average rainfall, resulting in record grass fuel loads.
- The Bureau of Meteorology has declared an El Nino event meaning drier and warmer conditions until the end of summer.
- These conditions have already contributed to significant fires activity across the State.
- NSW Department of Primary Industry has confirmed **3.1%** of the State is now in Drought with **29.1%** listed as Drought Affected.





September to November Outlook



Current Activity



- On 01 August 2023, **6** Local Government Areas commenced their BFDP having permanently or temporarily altered the period due to local climatic conditions with a further **32** commencing on 01 September 2023.
- All remaining Local Government Areas commenced on the 01 October 2023.
- There have been **5,982** bush & grass fires across the State since 01 July 2023 of which **3** reached Emergency Warning and **24** Watch & Act levels.
- **11** days of Total Fire Ban have been recorded so far this season with **16** Section 44 declarations (bush fire emergencies) affecting various Local Government Areas.
- Several homes and outbuildings have been destroyed and/or damaged.
- A large number of fires have been caused by escaped (private) burns with legal processes initiated by RFS, including penalty notices.

Current Activity



RFS

- RFS has co-ordinated NSW support since May 2023 as part of the Canadian fire fighting deployment working with NPWS, FRNSW, FCNSW and NSW SES.
- **228** personnel from NSW have deployed to Canada which is about **1/3** of the total Australian contingent.
- The RFS Large Air Tanker ‘Marie Bashir’ returned last month following a deployment to California.
- Over **24** RFS personnel have returned from Alice Springs having deployed to assist Bushfires NT along with the RFS Citation aircraft during September.
- RFS base camp infrastructure has also returned from the Northern Territory which provided temporary emergency accommodation over **3** months for displaced communities.

Agency Fire Fighting Capabilities



- **71,017** members
- **700** Remote Area Fire Fighters and **40** Aviation Rescue Crew
- **3,883** appliances (bush fire tankers and pumpers) and **350** approved heavy plant contractors, with more than **2,700** registered plant
- **11** NSW RFS aircraft (1 Large Air Tanker, 3 fixed wing, 6 rotary) and more than **200** contracted aircraft available (including 2 Large Air Tankers)



- **1,267** fire fighters (including over 700 remote area fire fighters)
- **377** appliances and **189** heavy plant
- **3** owned aircraft (rotary) and **3** leased aircraft (2 rotary and 1 fixed wing)
- **1** additional contracted rotary aircraft to support NPWS rapid aerial response teams (RART) during the bush fire season



- **6,776** Fire Fighters (3,564 permanent and 3,212 retained)
- **574** bush fire tankers/pumpers and **53** bush fire appliances
- **97** Remote Aerial Piloted Systems (RPAS)
- **512** Community Fire Units with **4,657** members



- **556** Fire Fighters
- **453** appliances and **35** heavy plant
- **4** contracted aircraft
- **110** Remote Aerial Piloted Systems (RPAS)

Aviation



- RFS owns **11** aircraft including the recently purchased CH-47 Chinook helicopter which has already been deployed operationally to northern NSW.
- Procurement of RFS aircraft is designed to minimise requirement to seek Defence aviation assistance.
- NSW has engaged **23** exclusive contract aircraft and will have access to **226** Call When Needed aircraft throughout the 2023/24 season.
- Issues continue to be experienced with contract aircraft availability due to fire activity (North America, Europe and Asia), fuel costs and transport logistics.
- The State Air Desk supports various Government agencies including Corrective Services, Department of Primary Industries, NSW Telco Authority and Surf Lifesaving NSW.
- RFS has implemented various aviation safety initiatives following the Large Air Tanker crash during the 2019/20 season.

**RFS**

RFS Owned Aircraft





Aviation Capabilities

– Night Time Operations

- Aerial Fire Fighting trial will continue following successful live mission at Narrabri last season where a contracted Chinook completed **9** drops and **75,000** litres at night.
- A successful night time search & rescue trial was completed in December 2022 involving winching operations. This capability can be used during bush fire and flood operations.

– Pre-Determined Dispatch

- The State Bush Fire Inquiry recommended the RFS trial initial aerial dispatch in areas of high bush fire risk. In effect, aircraft are dispatched at the same time of a fire appliance.
- This has been trialled each season since 2019/20 with positive results.
- There will be **15** locations this season from which PDD aircraft will operate.



RAAF Base Richmond

- RFS has operated from RAAF Base Richmond since 2015 and is very appreciative of support & co-operation provided to date.
- Last agreement was signed in 2021 (5 year duration) between RFS & Defence allowing for:
 - allocated secured aircraft parking bays for RFS aircraft
 - allocated undercover and secured equipment storage space for items such as retardant & aircraft spare parts
 - equipment usage (including forklifts, tugs with drivers, aircraft battery packs, power units, air stairs)
 - aircraft wash down facilities
 - hangar space for minor or short term maintenance
 - allocated air crew office space (excluding computer equipment & telephones)
 - static water supply points
 - allocated space for Portable Air Base Unit or vehicle
 - mess facilities or any other area used for the provision of meals



Aircraft – RAAF Richmond

Aircraft	Status	Commence	Finish
RFS LAT 737 (B210)	Permanent	N/A	N/A
RFS CH-47 (HT211)	Permanent	N/A	N/A
RFS C560 (FS200)	Permanent	N/A	N/A
RFS C560 (FS201)	Permanent	N/A	N/A
RFS King Air (FS203)	Permanent	Early December 2023	N/A
LAT C130 (B132)	Temporary	08/10/23	04/02/23*
LAT 737 (B137)	Temporary	December 2023*	March 2023*
CJ1 (TBA)	Temporary	December 2023*	March 2023*


* May be extended based on operational activity



RAAF Base Richmond

- As a result of planned works, RFS vacated Hangar 602 and were advised use of the facility would be available within two years.
- Following discussions, RFS was temporarily provided use of Hangar 4.
- **Demountable Building**
 - RFS has placed temporary demountable buildings to accommodate additional air crew.
 - Proposal to locate 2 demountable buildings land side near gate (previous location).
- **Container**
 - Proposal to temporarily locate 1 x 40 foot container near the tarred pad near the loading area.

s33(a)(i)





General

– Media

- reported issues regarding CH-47 media access and coverage.

– QLD Large Air Tanker

- reported issued regarding the QLD Large Air Tanker assisting with urgent property protection and lack of advice to Command Post.

– Additional CH-47

- RFS has procured an additional CH47 which will be stored in Hanger 54 once released from quarantine.

– Black Hawks

- Defence has now provided RFS with 2 x Black Hawks which are currently being stored at HMAS Albatross (Nowra) temporarily.



Future Actions

– RFS Point of Contact

- RFS will nominate and likely locate an officer at RAAF Base Richmond as the primary point of contact for consistency and ensure timely flow of information (including aircraft movements).

– Monthly Meeting

- Proposed a monthly meeting be held between RFS and RAAF Base Richmond to discuss any issues, provide updates on current activity etc.

– Permanent Facility

- RFS continue to liaise with Estate Infrastructure Group regarding the building of a permanent facility as part of the base redevelopment.



RFS

Defence FOI 616/24/25
Dawkins 3





Thank you



s22



From: s47F [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@rfs.nsw.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, 4 July 2024 11:35 AM
To: s47E(d) [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>
Subject: NSW RFS Media Event: VIPs

 **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. 

Good morning team,

Following on from my chat with ^{s47E(d)} earlier, please find the current list of VIPs attending our media event on Friday, 12 July.

- Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib
- Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers
- RFS Deputy Commissioner Peter McKechnie
- RFS Assistant Commissioner Viki Campbell
- Coulson Group CEO Wayne Coulson and Coulson Aviation Australia CEO Britt Coulson

I have also attached the current run sheet with updated details. I'll have the final list of attending media on Wednesday afternoon for you.

^{s47E(d)} please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any other questions.

Kind regards and thanks again for all the help,

s47F

s47F

Senior Media and Communications Officer



P s47F M s22 E s47F [@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:s47F@rfs.nsw.gov.au)
Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127
Locked Bag 17 Granville NSW 2142
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au



The RFS acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

s22



From: s47F [redacted] @rfs.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2024 3:47 PM

To: s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted]

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: s22
s22
Subject: RE: NSW RFS Media Event: July 12 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

⚠ EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. **⚠**

Good afternoon everyone,

Please see below the list of attending media for this Friday's RFS event at RAAF Base Richmond.

- s47F
-
-
-
-
-

RFS members s47F will also attend to manage our shuttle bus. I'll be at the pass office early to collect my DCAC before entering on the media bus.

For your reference, I have also attached the event run sheet.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kind regards and thank you for your help,

s47F

s47F

Senior Media and Communications Officer



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Locked Bag 17 Granville NSW 2142
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From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 4:20 PM
To: s47F @rfs.nsw.gov.au>; s47E(d)
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: s22
s22

Subject: RE: NSW RFS Media Event: July 12 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

Thank you for this. I have looped in a couple relevant stakeholders on this for their awareness, I imagine you are already liaising with the relevant base team etc.

s47E(d) is our public affairs manager in the region, so is a great POC for any questions you may have.

Once the last pieces are confirmed, could you please let me know so I can update internally for our tracking?

Thanks again,

s47E(d) | Media Advisor
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence



Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

Alt E: s47E(d)@defence.gov.au

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From: s47F @rfs.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2024 3:39 PM
To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: NSW RFS Media Event: July 12 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

 **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. 

Good afternoon,

We have confirmed Friday, 12 July as the date for this event. Please see below the run sheet as it stands.

- 1100: Media arrive, undergo registration checks at Percival St. car park.
- 1130: Media bus departs car park for hangar
- 1130: VIPs to arrive
- 1200: Media conference
- 1230: Inspection of aircraft and individual media interviews
- 1300: Transport media back to Percival St. car park.
- Event concludes

Our visitor's sponsor will be RFS Aviation Coordinator s47F. We're currently

confirming VIPs and will send through the visit request form as soon as possible.

Please let me know if there are any issues or questions.

Kind regards,

s47F

s47F

Senior Media and Communications Officer



P s47F **M** s22 **E** s47F [@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:s47F@rfs.nsw.gov.au)
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From: s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 4:47 PM
To: s47F [@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:s47F@rfs.nsw.gov.au); s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)>
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: NSW RFS Media Event: July 9 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

Thank you for your email.

Definitely keen to be kept across media attendance and a date/time/any other information, once you get these locked in.

Regards,

s47E(d) | Media Advisor
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600
E: s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)
Alt E: s47E [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E@defence.gov.au)

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From: s47F [@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:s47F@rfs.nsw.gov.au)>

Sent: Monday, 1 July 2024 2:55 PM

To: s47E(d) [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted]@defence.gov.au>

Cc: s22 [redacted]

Subject: NSW RFS Media Event: July 9

 **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. 

Good afternoon team,

I am writing regarding a potential media event to be held in the RFS hangar at RAAF Base Richmond on Tuesday, July 9. The NSW Premier has a significant announcement to make regarding the RFS aviation fleet.

As for previous events, we will seek attendee names from media outlets and try to provide this list 24-48 hours prior to arrival. We will also arrange a bus to transport media from the car park to the base.

I apologise for the notice less than two weeks in advance and will begin completing the necessary documentation, including the Visit Request Form and Photography Request Form, today.

As our Large Air Tanker is currently on international deployment, it's most likely the media conference will be filmed **inside** our hangar and not facing the tarmac.

We are awaiting final confirmation from the Premier and Minister's offices regarding the date, however wanted to give immediate notification of the event's planning.



Kind regards,

s47F [redacted]

s47F [redacted]

Senior Media and Communications Officer



P s47F [redacted] M s22 [redacted] ES [redacted] [\[redacted\]@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@rfs.nsw.gov.au)
Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127
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RFS

Event Brief

RFS Aviation Contract Announcement

12 July 2024

Date: Friday, 12 July 2024

Time: 11:30am

Location: RAAF Base Richmond
Dight St, Richmond NSW
Hangar 54

VIPs: Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib MP
Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers
Deputy Commissioner Peter McKechnie
Deputy Commissioner Kyle Stewart
Coulson Group CEO Wayne Coulson
Coulson Aviation Australia CEO Britt Coulson

Key Government Announcement

To announce which company has successfully won the tender for overseeing maintenance and operation of the RFS aviation fleet.

Brief Description of Media Opportunity

Media conference to announce Coulson Aviation has won the 10-year contract which includes provisions to ensure the transition to an all-Australian team and an expanded apprenticeship program. An opportunity to also highlight the RFS aviation fleet and crew and the work that has and will continue to be done to protect communities during fires and other emergencies.

One-on-one interviews will be available with VIP representatives and RFS aviation crew. Filming opportunities include the available RFS aviation resources.

Running Order

11:00am:	Media arrive, undergo registration checks at Percival Street car park
11:30am:	Media bus departs car park for hangar
11:30am:	VIPs to arrive
12:00pm:	Media conference Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers Coulson Group CEO Wayne Coulson
12:30pm:	Inspection of aircraft and individual media interviews (Pilot and Engineer will be made available for interview if required)
1:00pm:	Event concludes

Dress Code

Standard uniform or business.

Event Logistics

- Media and other RFS personnel to park in the Percival Street car park and be transported onto the base by RFS shuttle bus.
- RAAF Base Richmond requires media to register prior to event and all attending must carry matching photo ID on the day.
- VIPs can enter the base directly, by calling s47F s22) on approach and park in the Middleton Ave car park behind the RFS hangar on base.

Wet Weather Arrangements

- Media event to be held under cover within RFS hangar.

Location Map

- (On next page).

From: s47F
To: s47E(d) s47F
Cc: s22
Subject: Fwd: Approved - Civilian Aircraft Movement Request for Defence Aerodromes [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 11 July 2024 7:31:16 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening Sir et all

Please see the details of the rescheduled arrival of the visiting aircraft, N604CG.
Eta Richmond will be tomorrow Friday the 12th July at 1400. The aircraft will still park in the allocated parking spot 30.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

s47F Coordinator (Aviation) | Operational Field Support
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

s22



s22



From: s47F [redacted] @rfs.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 12 September 2024 12:45 PM

To: s47E(d) [redacted]@defence.gov.au>

Subject: NSW RFS facilities at RAAF Richmond airbase

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s47E(d) s47F [redacted] past on your contact details to me as a result of a meeting some time ago.

By way of introduction I manage the RFS owned aircraft contract arrangements covering our aircraft at RAAF Richmond as well the NAFC contract arrangements for the National and RFS temporary aircraft based at Richmond.

We have been discussing the future of RFS aircraft at Richmond for some time and I would like to arrange a meeting with yourself to discuss the future.

I would appreciate it if you could indicate your willingness and availability to meet perhaps next week or the week after to start exploring options for the future.

regards
s47F [redacted]

s47F [redacted]
Director, Operations Support



M s22 [redacted] **E** s47F [redacted] [@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@rfs.nsw.gov.au)
Headquarters 4 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic
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Locked Bag 17 Granville NSW 2142
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au [redacted] [redacted]



I respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.