

## NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE MEDIA RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday 24 February 2005



## TRUNDLE FIRST IN NSW TO BE SURVEYED

## Mid Lachlan Valley Team (Parkes)

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has announced that Trundle will be the first town in NSW to receive the Western Region Community Survey that is being completed by the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre at La Trobe University.

RFS Region West Manager, Chief Superintendent Dominic Lane said that the survey is an exciting project for Region West and an essential part of understanding more about the communities that RFS volunteer firefighters serve to protect.

"The RFS faces challenges in the future, but the spirit of local brigades is essential and this is a great opportunity for communities to give their thoughts and ideas to the RFS.

"It is important that the RFS understands the Western Region of NSW and the communities that make up this vital part of the country.

"We need to ensure there are enough volunteer firefighters in the future to protect lives and property from fire. Rural fire brigades are the backbone of local communities and are an important focus of community spirit.

"This is a great opportunity for the whole community to provide input into the decision making process and strengthen community safety by becoming more involved in their local RFS brigade.

"It is a simple process and feedback will ultimately affect the way fire protection is structured in the western part of NSW.

"The anonymous survey is straightforward and participation is voluntary. All survey forms will go directly to the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre at La Trobe University," said Chief Superintendent Lane.

Residents of Trundle will receive a copy of the anonymous survey after March 10, and they are encouraged to complete and return the survey if they are over 18 years of age and not currently serving as a RFS volunteer.

For further information contact RFS Region West on 02 6382 5677