

NSW Government Legal Services Panel – Stronger Communities cluster arrangements

16 September 2021 – 3pm – 4.30pm



We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Nations Peoples of NSW and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and future.

We acknowledge the ongoing connection Aboriginal people have to this land and recognise Aboriginal people as the original custodians of this land.



Attending the presentation today on behalf of the Cluster agencies:

- **Lida Kaban**, General Counsel, Department of Communities & Justice
- **Briony Armstrong**, Legal Practice Manager, Department of Communities & Justice
- **Guy Di Carlo**, Director, Commercial and Administrative Law, NSW Police Force
- **Andrew Reid**, Director, Employment and Safety Law, NSW Police Force
- **Claudia Pendlebury**, Director, Crime Disruption and Special Enquiries Law, NSW Police
- **Sharminie Niles**, General Counsel, Office of the Children's Guardian
- **Robert Tumeth**, Legal Services Coordinator, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission
- **Lauren Smith**, Manager, Legal, NSW Rural Fire Service
- **Patricia Fleming**, Acting Principal Solicitor, Fire & Rescue NSW



Stronger Communities Cluster Overview

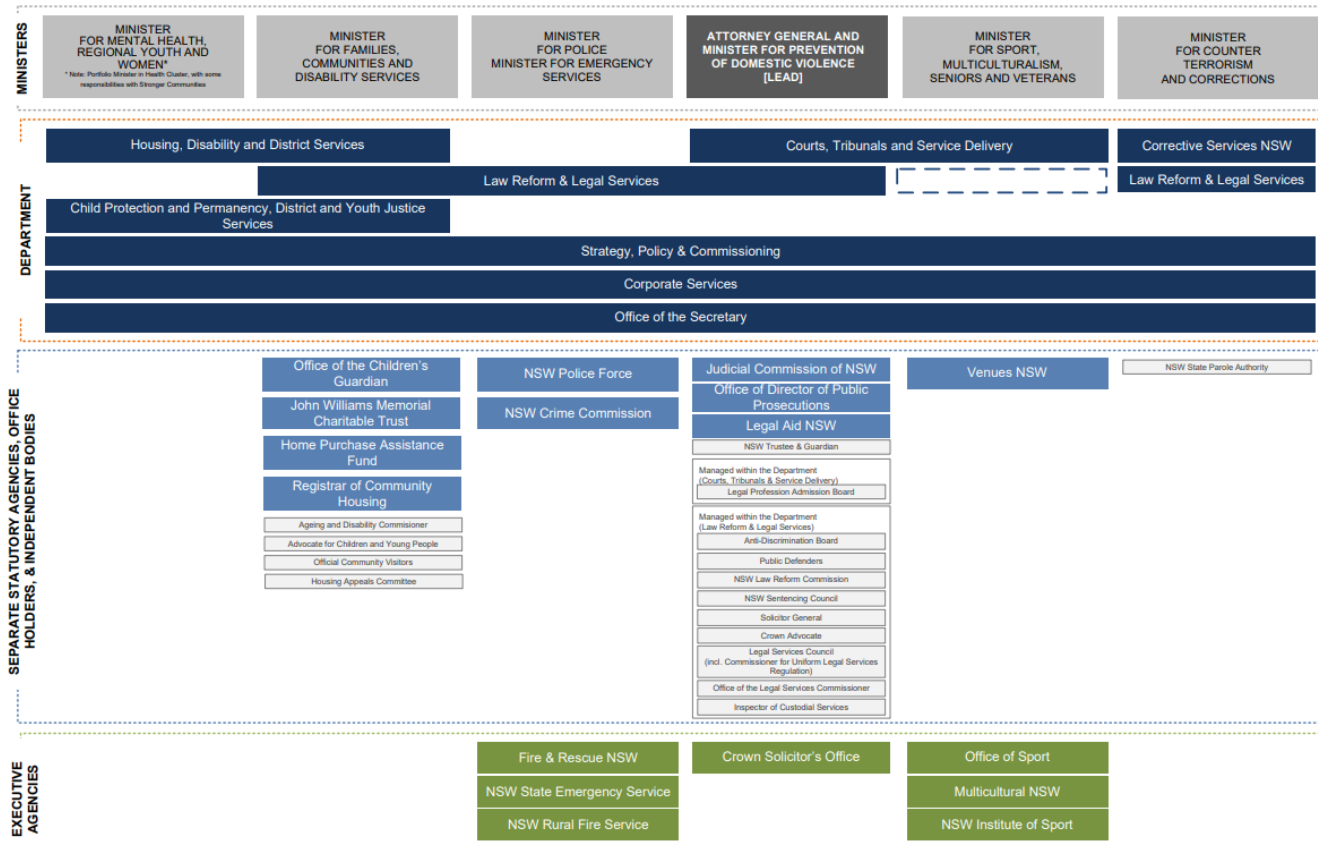


Stronger Communities Cluster

Under the Stronger Communities Cluster we are delivering services in a more unified and collaborative way with a greater focus on prevention and early intervention, working together to make a meaningful difference for the children and families that we serve, and ultimately for everyone in NSW.



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| Principal Department |
| Separate Statutory Agencies |
| Executive Agencies related to the Department |
| Office holders and independent bodies |



Stronger Communities Cluster Ministers



The Hon. Mark Speakman SC MP
Lead Minister – Stronger Communities Cluster

Attorney General and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence



The Hon. David Elliott, BA, MA, MStJ MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services



The Hon. Alister Henskens, SC MP
Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services



The Hon. Bronwyn Taylor, MLC
Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women



The Hon. Anthony Roberts, MA (Comms) MP
Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections



The Hon. Natalie Ward, MLC
Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

State Outcomes & Premier's Priorities

The Stronger Communities Cluster has responsibilities for delivering on key policies for the government, including seven State Outcomes and five Premier's Priorities.



Stronger Communities – Premier's Priorities

Reducing domestic violence reoffending

Reduce the number of domestic violence reoffenders by 25 per cent by 2023

Reducing recidivism in the prison population

Reduce adult reoffending following release from prison by five per cent by 2023

Reducing homelessness

Reduce street homelessness across NSW by 50 per cent by 2025

Protecting our most vulnerable children

Decrease the proportion of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm by 20 per cent by 2023

Increasing permanency for children in out-of-home care

Double the number of children in safe and permanent homes by 2023 for children in, or at risk of entering, out-of-home care



Department of Communities & Justice

The Department of Communities & Justice's (DCJ) purpose is to help create a safe, just, and inclusive NSW in which everyone has the opportunity to reach their potential.

DCJ is the lead agency in the Stronger Communities Cluster.




















































Department of Communities & Justice

The establishment of DCJ has enabled us to better work together to support everyone's right to access justice and other help for families and to deliver services with a more unified and collaborative approach, with benefits for the whole community.



State Outcomes

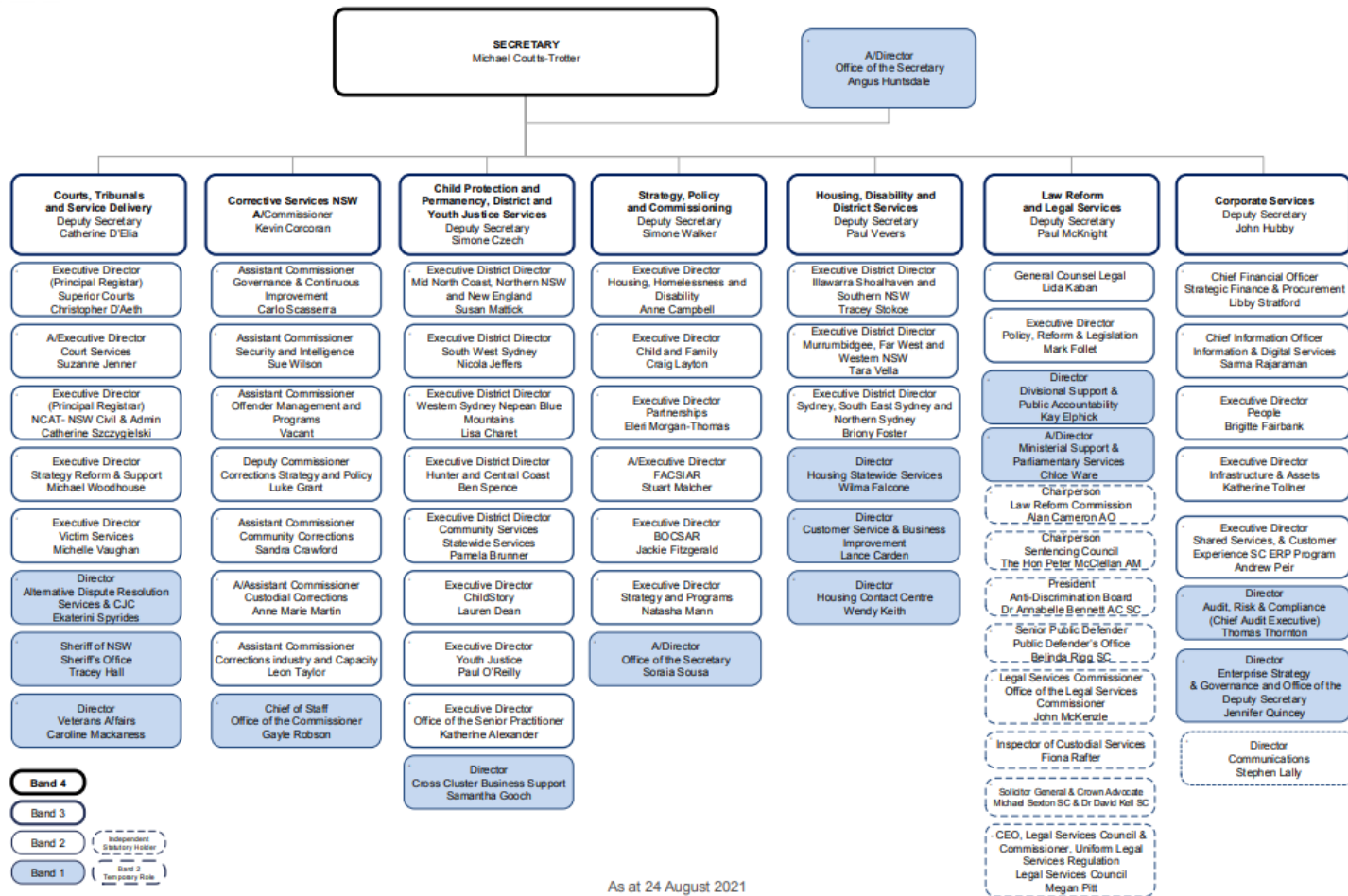
The table shows how shows how our DCJ divisions are responsible for delivering on the State Outcomes

| | | <div>Safer communities</div>  <p>Working across government with key law enforcement agencies to prevent crime, maintain social order and promote community security and safety.</p> | <div>Efficient and effective legal system</div>  <p>Supporting the resolution of criminal and civil matters through legal services, the administration of courts and tribunals, and client services to victims and vulnerable people.</p> | <div>Reduce reoffending</div>  <p>Supporting and managing adult and juvenile offenders in correctional centres, and in the community.</p> | <div>Prepared for disasters and emergencies</div>  <p>Coordinating DCJ's emergency management response to enhance recovery efforts and build community resilience.</p> | <div>Active and inclusive communities</div>  <p>Provide a range of community support to improve wellbeing, increase community participation, and promote social inclusion and cohesion.</p> | <div>Children and families thrive</div>  <p>Supporting the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children, young people and families.</p> <p>This supports the Premiers' Priorities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting our most vulnerable children Increasing permanency for children in out-of-home-care Reducing domestic violence reoffending. | <div>People have a safe and affordable place to live</div>  <p>Providing assistance for people unable to access or maintain appropriate housing, including homelessness services.</p> <p>This supports the Premier's Priority of: Reducing homelessness.</p> | <div>Our organisation enables improved service delivery</div>  <p>We partner across the organisation to invest in our people and to deliver the information, systems and infrastructure needed to achieve service delivery outcomes.</p> |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Divisions | | | | | | | | | |
| Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services |  |  |  | | | |  |  | |
| Corporate Services |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Corrective Services NSW |  |  |  | | | |  | | |
| Courts, Tribunals and Service Delivery | |  |  | | |  |  | | |
| Housing, Disability & District Services and Emergency Management |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Law Reform and Legal Services |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strategy, Policy and Commissioning |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lead Agency for Outcome | NSW Police | | | | NSW Fire & Rescue Rural Fire Service State Emergency Services | Office of Sport Multicultural NSW Ageing & Disability Commissioner | | | |

 = Lead responsibility  = Contributor

Department of Communities and Justice

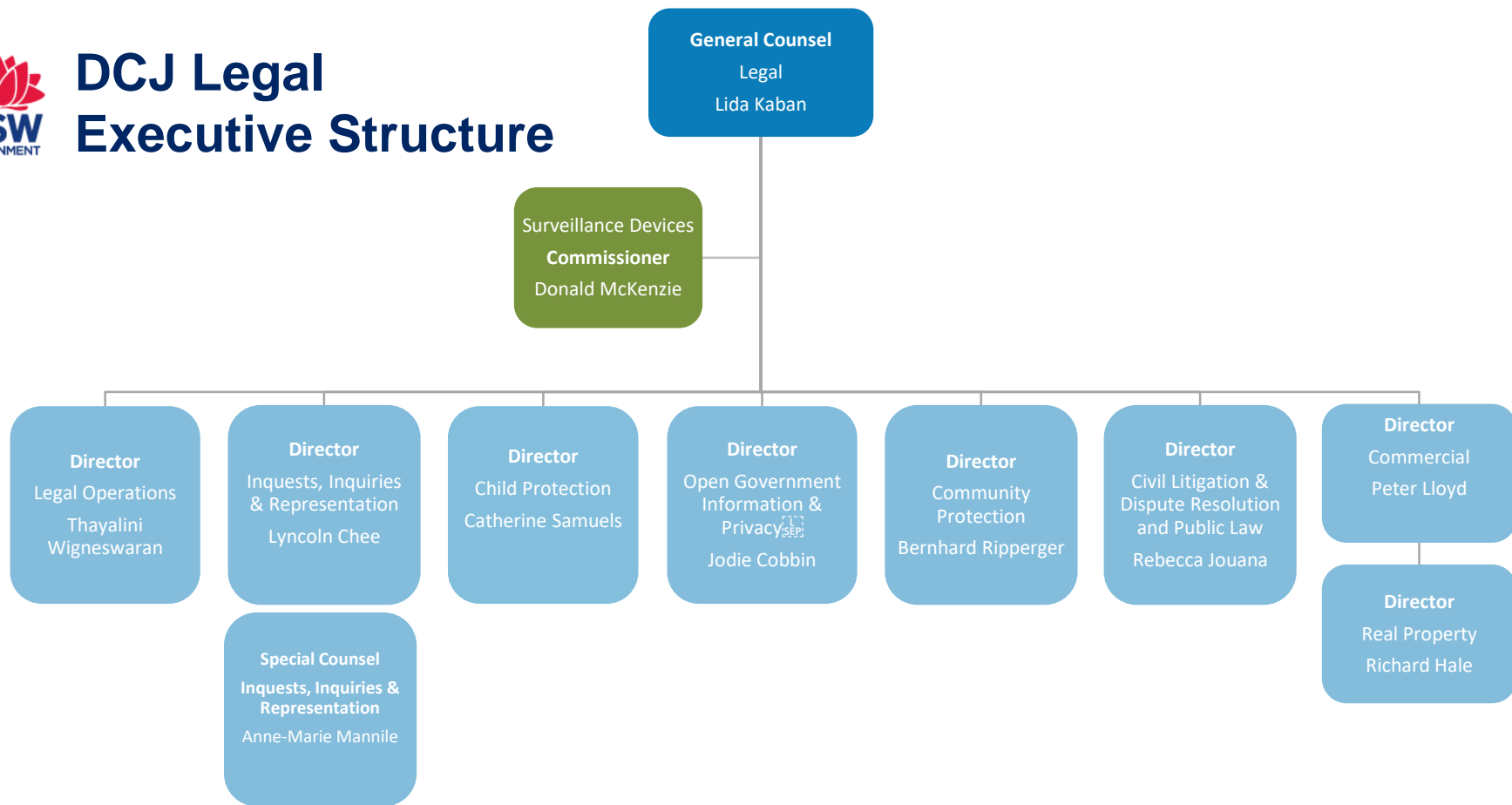
Executive Structure



As at 24 August 2021



DCJ Legal Executive Structure





Legal – What We Do

We aim to be the best-in-class provider of Government legal services and a leader in the provision of strategic advice and advocacy.

We provide strategic legal advice, skilful advocacy and considered administrative services to our Ministerial and Departmental clients, with a whole-of-government focus and public law expertise.





Legal – Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities

- Breadth, diversity and unique areas of law
- Expertise and Excellence in delivery of legal services
- Working collaboratively and strengthening partnerships
- Metropolitan and regionally based workforce
- Diversity in workforce
- Great career opportunities

Challenges

- High quality training for our people
- Digital literacy
- Knowledge management
- Tech enablement and digital processes
- Scale and workflow





Legal – Engagement of Panel firms

- Commercial and contract matters, for example in relation to Safe and Affordable Housing Fund
- Complex property and planning advice
- Major Transactions
- Employment, Work Health and Safety
- Government, Regulatory and Administrative Law
- Litigation and Inquiries

Legal – Key Contacts

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Lida Kaban | General Counsel | Lida.Kaban@justice.nsw.gov.au |
| Thayalini Wigneswaran | Director, Legal Operations | Thayalini.Wigneswaran@facs.nsw.gov.au |
| Briony Armstrong | Practice Manager, Legal Operations *Agency Contract Manager | Briony.Armstrong@facs.nsw.gov.au |
| Donald McKenzie | Surveillance Devices Commissioner | Donald.McKenzie@facs.nsw.gov.au |
| Lincoln Chee | Director, Inquests, Inquiries & Representation | Lincoln.Chee@justice.nsw.gov.au |
| Anne-Marie Manille | Special Counsel, Inquests, Inquiries & Representation | Anne-Marie.Mannile@justice.nsw.gov.au |
| Bernhard Ripperger | Director, Community Protection | Bernhard.Ripperger@justice.nsw.gov.au |
| Catherine Samuels | Director, Child Protection | Catherine.Samuels@facs.nsw.gov.au |
| Jodie Cobbin | Director, Open Government Information & Privacy | Jodie.Cobbin@justice.nsw.gov.au |
| Peter Lloyd | Director, Commercial | Peter.Lloyd@justice.nsw.gov.au |
| Richard Hale | Director, Real Property | Richard.Hale@facs.nsw.gov.au |
| Rebecca Jouana | Director, Civil Litigation, Dispute Resolution and Public Law | Rebecca.Jouana@facs.nsw.gov.au |



Stronger Communities Cluster

Executive Agencies



Executive Agencies

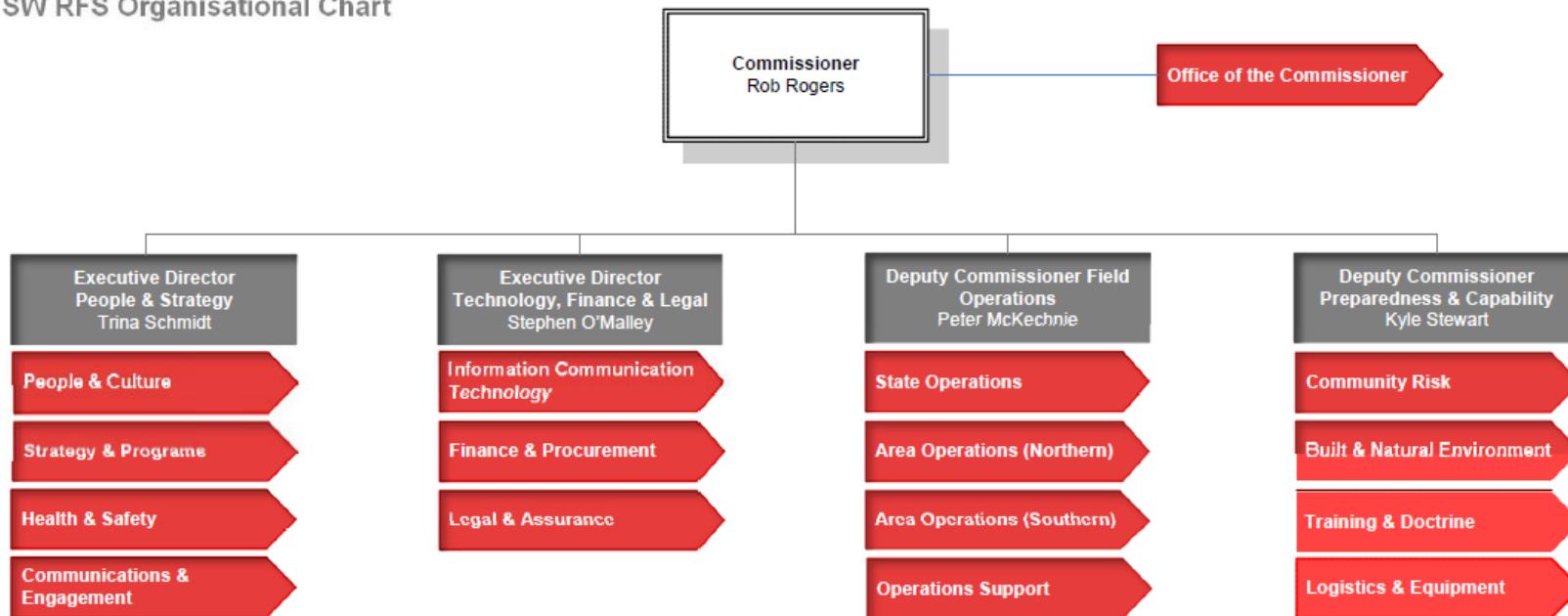
The *Prepared for Disasters and Emergencies* State Outcome is led by the NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW Fire and Rescue.

These agencies engage the NSW Government Legal Services Panel predominantly in relation to employment and commercial law matters.



NSW Rural Fire Service

NSW RFS Organisational Chart





NSW RFS Priority Projects 2021-2022



Emergency Logistics Program

By enhancing our emergency logistics systems and processes, we will ensure our firefighters and IMTs are supported with an end-to-end, user-friendly procurement and logistics approach that enables us to get what we need where we need it. We will move away from a paper-based system to a digital one to save time and effort for our members and ensure a more efficient logistics process in times of emergency.



Digital ID

We will introduce a new digital identity system, where you can identify yourself as a NSW RFS member as needed, and into the future use it to replace authority cards.



Benevolent Fund

To better support our members when they need it most, we will establish a fund to distribute money to injured or deceased firefighters and their families, and create other safe connections to support families in distress. This is a step towards our longer term vision to provide broader support for NSW RFS families suffering from financial hardship and distress.

NSW RFS Priority Projects 2021-2022



Australian Fire Danger Rating System

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System is a new approach to forecasting and communicating fire danger across Australia. It will improve public safety and reduce the impact of bush fires. The NSW RFS is leading the project on behalf of all states and territories and in conjunction with AFAC.

The new system will be in place by July 2022 and will involve new fire danger ratings and signage across Australia. Naturally this is a very large program and one that will necessitate fresh training and education for members and the community ahead of the roll out.



Station Connectivity

Given the rising role of digital platforms and apps in the NSW RFS, it is unreasonable to expect our brigades to continue absorbing all costs related to connectivity. We will explore opportunities to further connect brigades to the organisation through internet connectivity, member e-mail addresses and telephony services for key roles. This will include understanding how to alleviate the need for Brigades to meet costs for these services through partnership opportunities.



NSW Rural Fire Service – Key Contacts

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Deb Andreatta | Director, Legal and Assurance | Debbie.andreatta@rfs.nsw.gov.au |
| Lauren Smith | Manager, Legal | Lauren.smith@rfs.nsw.gov.au |
| Amanda Jamieson | Senior Legal Officer | Amanda.jamieson@rfs.nsw.gov.au |
| Alana Paine | Senior Legal Officer | Alana.paine@rfs.nsw.gov.au |
| Catherine Zhao | Legal Coordinator | Catherine.zhao@rfs.nsw.gov.au |
| Kalppana Maran | Business Officer | Kalppana.maran@rfs.nsw.gov.au |



Fire & Rescue NSW

FRNSW is one of the key agencies involved in the response phase of most emergency or disaster events throughout NSW.

FRNSW is one of the world's largest urban fire and rescue services and is the busiest in Australia.

FRNSW protects 90% of the State's population.

FRNSW protects 100% of NSW from hazardous materials emergencies and building collapse.





Fire & Rescue NSW – External Legal Requirements

- Commercial and contractual matters – automatic fire alarms, PPC, vehicles – aerial appliances and Class I, II and III vehicles, self contained breathing apparatus, helmets, gas detectors, thermal imaging cameras and communications
- General litigation and dispute resolution.
- Inquiries and debt recovery
- Work Health and Safety of Firefighters
- Governance – intersection of administrative, regulatory and commercial law
- Property – complex property transactions including being self approver of developments

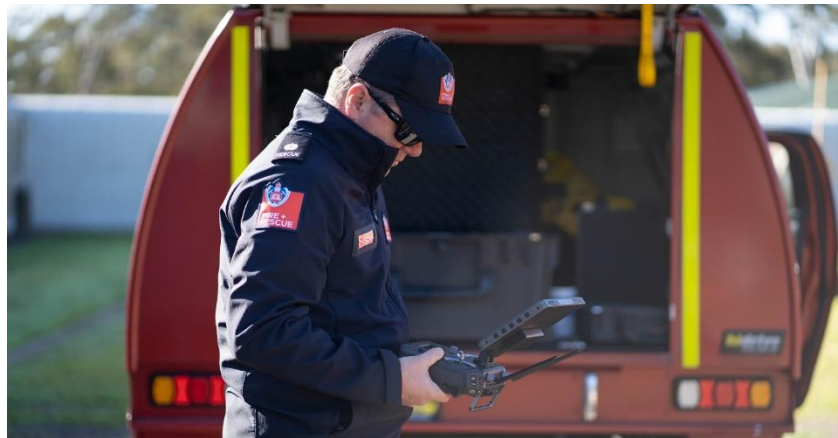
Fire & Rescue NSW – Challenges & Opportunities

Opportunities

- Work collaboratively with other agencies
- Knowledge management and record keeping
- Procurement of technology and business systems.

Challenges

- Diversity of laws with limited guidance from the courts
- Diversity of the workforce – permanent and on call firefighters, administrative staff
- Technology advances and data capture in a security environment
- Interoperability of data sources
- Protecting intellectual property



Executive Agencies

There are a number of smaller agencies in the Cluster, such as Multicultural NSW and Office of Sport that engage Panel firms for bespoke legal issues, usually of a commercial nature or in relation to employment law matters.





Statutory Agencies

The *Safer Communities* State Outcome is predominantly led by the NSW Police Force and includes the NSW Crime Commission.

NSW Police Force is the largest user of the NSW Government Legal Services Panel in the Stronger Communities Cluster.



