

# State Emergency Service **Media Release**



Friday, 15 November 2019

## **State Emergency Service celebrates opening of new Burra facility this coming Sunday**

The Burra State Emergency Service (SES) Unit will officially open its new operational facility this coming Sunday (17 November) at 11am.

The new facility, on Smelts Road, was built at a cost of \$1 million with the site and building works taking 12 months to complete.

With a floor area of 380 square metres, the new facility has a large multi-use training room, two offices, a communications room, kitchen, laundry and change rooms and toilets for both male and female unit members.

The unit's operational vehicles will be housed in a two-vehicle appliance bay.

Burra SES Unit can trace its origins back to 1942 when the Burra Civil Defence Unit published a notice in the *Burra Record* calling on townfolk to take heed of warning signals and calling for new members for its stretcher bearing squad.

Unit Manager Bruce Gundersen said recruiting and retaining volunteer members was a challenge in regional towns.

"We are very hopeful this great new facility will provide a catalyst to encourage new members to join and keep this vital service moving forward," he said.

"Our primary operational capability is around storm and flood response, land search operations and road crash rescue as well as providing support to the Country Fire Service during major bushfires," Mr Gundersen said.

SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie said it was important the agency continued to provide functional and contemporary facilities to underpin SES' emergency management capabilities.

"This new facility will help ensure we continue to provide an increased operational response for Burra, the surrounding area and, of course, the Mid North more broadly," Mr Beattie said.

About 45 people, including current unit members, are expected to attend the opening on Sunday.

The Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Corey Wingard MP, will unveil a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion and present an SES 10-year service medal to unit member David Williams.

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