

Office of the Minister for Local Government
and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster
Recovery and Volunteers

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Ref No: 01650-25
Your Ref: QFS/63476

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21 July 2025

Mr Justin Choveaux
General Manager
Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland Inc.

Email: gm@rfbaq.org

Dear Mr Choveaux

Thank you for your further email of 18 June 2025 regarding the effect of the legislative reforms that commenced on 1 July 2024 on rural fire brigades, and the response provided to you by the Honourable Ann Leahy MP, Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers on 16 June 2025.

The Minister has asked me to respond to you on her behalf and I have sought departmental advice so I may appropriately address the further concerns you have raised.

I am advised that the changes made by the *Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* provided rural fire brigades with special statutory recognition as registered rural fire brigades. The changes did not 'dissolve' any unincorporated association. The changes do not preclude rural fire brigade members from continuing to associate with each other as part of another unincorporated association, but that association will not be a registered rural fire brigade.

I am further advised that there has been no change to the ownership of equipment acquired or held by a rural fire brigade, or on its behalf, before 1 July 2024. Before 1 July 2024, a rural fire brigade could not hold property in its own right. Property used by a rural fire brigade was owned by individual members through a variety of different arrangements. That property remains that of the individual or individuals who acquired or held it on behalf of the brigade. Property held on trust or for the purpose of a rural fire brigade should continue to be used for that purpose.

Finally, there has been no change to the ownership of bank accounts owned and operated on behalf of a rural fire brigade prior to 1 July 2024. As outlined in the RFSQ Brigade Finances fact sheet ([BF01 RFSQ Fact Sheet Brigade Banking Arrangements&Accounts.pdf](#)), if those members who hold and/or operate such an account wish to do so, the bank accounts can continue to be used for funds received before 1 July 2024. However, a rural fire brigade can also choose to deposit funds received before 1 July 2024 into an RFSQ sub-account in the same way as is required for funds received post 1 July 2024.

I trust this information is of assistance.

If you require any further information, please contact me on 0424 683 186 or email Angus.McCaffrey@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AMC', written in a cursive style.

Angus McCaffrey
Chief of Staff