



Media Release

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Go west Rural Fire Services

NSW Farmers is backing calls to move the Rural Fire Service (RFS) headquarters to the central west region of NSW.

Farmers from Mudgee, Orange and Peak Hill won widespread support at the NSW Farmers' annual conference to lobby for a city to country relocation for the RFS.

NSW Farmers' Executive Councillor Reg Kidd said moving to the central west aligned with the state government's Decentralisation Taskforce policy.

"This is a perfect opportunity to move a government department to a rural region without impacting on its effectiveness and efficiency," Mr Kidd said.

The NSW RFS may be forced to leave its headquarters in Sydney because of land zoning changes and can only remain in its current location until the end of its lease in 2018.

Mr Kidd cited other successful city to country moves for government agencies, such as the Department of Primary Industries relocation to Orange.

"Moving the RFS to a rural region would also provide a greater sense of ownership amongst rural and regional communities, which is who the RFS serves."

Mr Kidd said a move out of Sydney would also remove problems associated with traffic and general city based congestion.

"There would also have to be some cost savings, particularly in relation to property acquisition or leasing rates," he concluded.

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