



Ben Millington
Acting Chief Officer, Rural Fire Service



Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) welcomes Ben Millington as the new acting Chief Officer of Queensland's Rural Fire Service, after a nation-wide, highly contested recruitment search.

Currently the Assistant Commissioner State Operations with the NSW Rural Fire Service, Ben comes to QFES with a wealth of experience as a leader in volunteer-based emergency services.

Along with senior leadership roles overseeing emergency management, state operations and aviation, Ben was seconded to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in 2016-17 as a Disaster Management Specialist to strengthen regional capacity and coordination of disaster preparedness in cooperation with Pacific nations.

Ben has significant operational and change management experience, including as the State Operations Controller during the NSW 2019-20 bushfires which captured world attention, and then played a key role throughout the NSW COVID-19 operational response. Ben also oversaw the implementation of the Large Air Tanker program and Computer Aided Dispatch arrangements.

Before joining the NSW RFS in 2011 Ben served in the NSW Police Force for over ten years. In 2013 Ben travelled to New Zealand, Japan, USA and Canada under a Churchill Fellowship to study mass evacuations and supporting arrangements following significant disasters.

Ben has been awarded numerous distinctions for his work across emergency services including the National Emergency Medal, National Medal, NSW Premier's Bushfire Emergency Citation and Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal.

Ben will commence in the role on 12 February 2024 for 12 months while Chief Officer Mike Wassing is seconded to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

Ben's appointment is the first of several to be made that will firm up the Rural Fire Service leadership as QFES moves toward establishing the Queensland Fire Department.