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Media Release:

New firefighting equipment for Wards River RFS

Firefighters at Wards River Rural Fire Service (RFS) are better equipped and will be more efficient in a fire crisis with new firefighting equipment, thanks to a \$1,900 donation from Stratford Coal.

The funding purchased essential equipment to respond in a fire emergency including:

- a hose washer – will ensure hoses are clean and improve longevity;
- a multi-purpose ladder for the Category 2 truck - replacing an old single purpose ladder; and
- a compressed air retractable hose reel – will help to ensure all truck tyres are running at correct pressure and improve the use of compressed air for other maintenance tasks at the station.

Garry Lyford, Secretary of Wards River Rural Fire Service (RFS), was delighted with the new equipment.

“We are always looking at ways to improve our brigade and ensure we have the latest in equipment to ensure our community is as safe as possible.

“We have recognised for a while that we needed this equipment to enhance our capability when responding to emergency incidents.

“We pride ourselves on providing a rapid response to bush and grass fires, structural fires, and motor vehicle accidents, while also executing critical hazard reduction and community education programs.

“It is vital we have a specialised array of equipment to respond to all these situations and be there when our Wards River and surrounding community needs us most.

“We are confident that our service delivery will be more reliable with this new gear and appreciate the funding from Stratford Coal to make it happen,” said Garry.

Wards River RFS provides emergency fire suppression service for Wards River and surrounding localities. It also provides support to SES, Police and Ambulance in the area. It was established in 1957 and has around 16 members.

Stratford Coal Operations Manager, John Cullen, was pleased to fund the new equipment.

“The Wards River firefighters do a fantastic job helping prevent and combat bushfires.

“We are pleased our funding could purchase the new firefighting equipment and happy to continue supporting the ongoing hard work and effort that Wards River Rural Fire Service provides to the community,” said John.

The donation was part of the Stratford Coal Community Support Program, which aims to make a positive difference in the local community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the areas it operates.

Yancoal is proud to be investing into local and regional Australia, helping build stronger communities across the country.

For over 20 years since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia's largest coal exporters: owning or operating eight producing mines across the country, employing over 5,500 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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