

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2008

## **MINISTER COMMISSIONS MORE VEHICLES FOR FREELING FIREFIGHTERS**

Emergency Services Minister, Michael Wright, will commission two new emergency service vehicles at the Freeling CFS Brigade Fire Station today.

Minister Wright, along with Euan Ferguson, Chief Officer CFS, will officially present the keys to the new Freeling 34 appliance (truck) and Freeling Quick Attack Vehicle (QAV) to Freeling Brigade Captain Paul Lucantoni.

Following the ceremony, several awards will also be presented to members of the Freeling Brigade who have given more than 10 years of service to the CFS.

“I am proud to officially commission the new Freeling 34 Appliance and Freeling QAV, both of which have fire curtains to help increase volunteer safety. Their welfare is crucial and the State Government is delighted to have been able to help fund such a worthwhile project,” Minister Wright said.

“Since coming into office in 2002, the Government has significantly increased funding to the emergency services and these two new vehicles will be housed at the recently revamped Freeling station, which was undertaken with assistance of Government grants.”

It’s also a significant occasion for the Freeling CFS Bridge, which will honour 16 volunteers who’ve dedicated 10 or more years of service to the CFS.

Freeling CFS Bridge Captain Paul Luantoni said, “The brigade members, who have donated a lot of time and hard work, together with community fundraising and help from some government grants, have rebuilt the station from a basic iron shed to a more user-friendly facility which will comfortably house the new Freeling 34 and QAV appliances.”

Minister Wright says the State Government acknowledges and appreciates the tireless work and commitment of the State’s 16,000 volunteer emergency service personnel, and reiterates it’s not just about fighting fires but dealing with the many challenges and varied emergencies crew members face on a daily basis.

“Some of these members have devoted up to 30 years of service which shows amazing dedication and commitment to ensuring community safety and is certainly an admirable and praiseworthy feat,” Minister Wright said.