



**Brendan Smyth MLA**

Australian Capital Territory

## Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Member for Brindabella

Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Economic Development,  
Business and Tourism, Emergency Services, Territory Owned  
Corporations and Gaming & Racing



Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA  
Speaker  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
GPO Box 1020]  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Speaker

I am proposing to attend the Rural Fire Service Association Conference (RFSA) which is being held 18-20 June 2010 at Rydges Lakeside, Canberra.

The Conference will include topics on practical bushfire fighting issues, hazard reduction, communications, community relations, the fire line, technology, recovery and volunteer issues which are relevant to my Emergency Services Shadow Ministerial responsibilities.

As I am a member of the RFSA Sister Association my Conference registration fee is \$300.00 in comparison to the non member registration fee of \$900.00. I would be most grateful if you would approve the prepayment of the registration fee from my study allowance at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Smyth

19 May 2010

## STUDY TRIP REPORT

**Name:** Brendan Smyth MLA

**Purpose of visit:** To attend the Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA) Conference.

**Places visited and date(s) of visit:** 18 – 20 June 2010, Canberra.

**Expenses incurred:**

Conference registration	\$272.73
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$272.73</b>

**Organisation(s) and individuals visited:**

The RFSA is the Association of the members of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) of New South Wales. It represents the more than 70,000 volunteers, who make up the largest volunteer fire fighting service in the world. The Conference is open to anyone with an interest in any aspect of bushfire fighting.

The RFSA is a non-partisan organisation whose role is to raise issues on behalf of its members and to ensure that their voice is heard on issues affecting their membership.

It is the first time that the Conference has been held in Canberra.

**Business undertaken:**

The Conference was held over the weekend of the 18 to 20 June at Rydges Lakeside in Canberra. The two day program included presentations from the RFSA committee, various politicians, academics, volunteers, NSWRFs and ACTESA staff and a motivational speaker. There was also a panel discussion on the future of the RFS.

ACT Emergency Services Commissioner, Mr Mark Crosweller, addressed the Conference on developments with ACT issues since the 2003 bushfires.

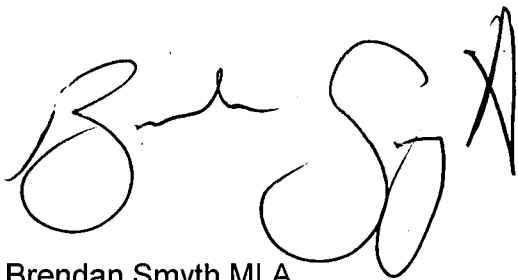
The academic presentations included a presentation on fire behaviour and the legal issues affecting volunteer firefighters. Professor Ross Bradstock, the Director of the Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires, University of Wollongong, spoke about the work of the unit and advances it had made in the management and assessment of bushfire risk and activity. Dr Michael Eburn addressed legal issues affecting volunteer firefighters and, in particular, their liability arising from firefighting activity.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held during the Conference.

A trade fair was also conducted in conjunction with the Conference. Displays were provided by various associations, research and government bodies as well as by fire fighting equipment suppliers.

**Conclusions and/or recommendations:**

The Conference was very useful, in that it enabled me to meet with a large number of volunteer firefighters from another jurisdiction to discuss both operational and organisational issues. I also met with individuals and brigades that have developed useful firefighting protocols and resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Smyth', followed by a large, stylized 'X' or flourish.

Brendan Smyth MLA

Date: 11. 8. 10