Alice Springs’ Bushfires NT Volunteers Lauded For Service

Parks and Wildlife Minister Alison Anderson today congratulated Central Australian bushfire brigade volunteers on their service to Territorians, and handed over equipment to bolster fire control and mitigation efforts in the centre of the Territory.

This is part of the Territory Government’s $2 million commitment to strengthening volunteer brigades by providing infrastructure to prevent and control bushfire outbreaks.

Ms Anderson today handed over the keys to a front end loader to the Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade. The machine will be used for fire prevention and mitigation work in Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

Ms Anderson praised the work of long time members of Central Australian volunteer bushfire brigades, saying it was vital that people be encouraged to contribute to their community in such a meaningful way.

“These people give up their time to help safeguard the wellbeing of everyone in their community, and they should be commended for their efforts,” Ms Anderson said.

The three volunteers members cited today were:

**Ken Metcalf**, a long time member of the Alice Springs brigade, who has worked mainly as the base radio operator, performing important communications functions.

**Justin Hankinson**, the inaugural and current Captain of the Tennant Creek brigade, who is also a volunteer in the NT Fire and Rescue Service and a senior officer in the St Johns Ambulance.

**Phillip Walker**, who was previously the Captain of the Alice Springs brigade and is now a Fire Control Officer for the Alice Springs Fire Control Region.

A fire trailer has also been donated to the Blue Bush Community north of Tennant Creek, and another trailer has been handed to the Central Land Council to undertake fire hazard reduction work in a number of areas from the Tanami and Tennant Creek across to Docker River.

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