



# Gurmesh Singh

Shadow Minister for Regional Health  
Shadow Minister for Emergency Services  
Shadow Minister for the North Coast

# Dave Layzell

Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### LABOR'S BROKEN PROMISE DELAYS ADDITIONAL FIRE FIGHTING SUPPORT

The NSW Opposition is calling on the Minns Labor Government to permanently allow conditional registrations for Farm Fire Fighting Vehicles (FFFVs), to boost capacity this summer.

A highly successful trial enabling farmers to use the unregistered vehicles during an emergency ended in March this year, but the Government has opted for a second trial to run between 13 December and 31 March 2025 instead of officially implementing the scheme.

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services Gurmesh Singh said the delay is disappointing given Labor promised to make the scheme permanent before the start of the bushfire season.

"When a fire breaks out, farmers are often the first to respond, and they can play a key role in protecting properties, particularly before emergency crews arrive," Mr Singh said.

"In paddocks and sheds across regional New South Wales, there's an army of privately owned firefighting assets known as the "mosquito fleet". They are ready to swarm and help contain a blaze, but they are stuck in red tape because they are not always registered.

"We are now well into the bushfire season, and we need the Minns Government to urgently deliver on its promise and offer a conditional rego, to give our communities every available resource at their disposal."

The trial involved more than 200 vehicles that were able to drive within 100km of their properties for the purposes of fighting a fire.

But when pushed on the issue by Nationals Upper House MP Scott Barrett in Parliament, Minister for Roads John Graham refused to honour the commitment.

Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Dave Layzell said regional communities are being put at risk.

"Farm Fire Fighting Vehicles tend to be used around the farm and not on public roads, which is why the conditional registration will be a good way to allow them attend nearby fires, without the high cost of a full registration," Mr Layzell said.

"We don't want a situation where landholders are deterred from helping in an emergency because the Government was too slow to act on making these changes permanent.

"Although we agree safety needs to be a top priority, the Minister needs to explain how this second trial will be different. It just seems to be an unnecessary step preventing crucial firefighting support."

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