



## MEMORANDUM

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**To:** All NSW RFS members  
**From:** John Parnaby Group Manager Assets & Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Bush Fire Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) Review  
**Date:** 12 December 2014

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A working group has been established to review the NSW RFS bush fire Personal Protective Clothing (PPC – currently classified as ‘the two-piece yellows’). The purpose is to ensure the new PPC meets current and future needs of NSW RFS members in terms of protection, comfort and functionality, including women’s specific design and sizing.

A green field approach is being taken with no preconceived ideas for the final outcome.

The working group consists of representatives for each region and includes female representation. NSW RFS members will be consulted throughout the review.

### Timeframe

The working group will have a finalised PPC design by July 2015, with trial PPC in the field by September 2015. Once the trial is completed and a final design chosen, the new PPC will be put into production.

### In scope

The scope of this review includes:

- › seeking feedback from NSW RFS members on the pros and cons of the current bush fire PPC including any issues and ideas for improvement
- › a risk assessment of the roles undertaken by members when wearing the bush fire PPC
- › an analysis of the current PPC’s ability to address the risks identified
- › a literature review of PPC design/risk assessment in Australia and overseas
- › an analysis of the current PPC’s ability to provide protection, comfort and functionality in all situations it is currently being used in
- › an analysis of the appropriate balance between radiant heat protection and metabolic heat generation/dissipation
- › delivering a PPC design (including fabric selection) that addresses the identified protection, comfort and functionality requirements
- › a comparative cost benefit analysis of the new PPC options and the current PPC
- › the manufacture of PPC design(s) developed during the review
- › the trial of PPC developed during the review over a minimum three month period by brigade members, RART/RAFT, State Mitigation Support Services
- › seeking feedback from NSW RFS members on the trial PPC
- › preparing the final recommendations on PPC design and fabric selection for approval by the NSW RFS.

## **Out of scope**

The scope of this review does **not** include:

- › offensive structural fire fighting
- › other personnel protective equipment
- › repairs and maintenance of PPC.

## **Consultation period – member feedback**

Members are invited to submit feedback during the initial consultation period which runs to 1 March 2015 and during the trial PPC period. Submissions can be sent to [PPCreview@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:PPCreview@rfs.nsw.gov.au). For feedback on out of scope items of PPE/PPC and equipment, email [equipment@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:equipment@rfs.nsw.gov.au)