



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Industrial Relations**

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**Thursday, March 19, 2009**

## **SHERIFF'S OFFICER COMMENDED FOR HELP DURING FIRES**

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos and Member for Tamworth Peter Draper today commended the bravery of Tamworth Sheriff's Officer Sergeant Mark Mulheron who was deployed with NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) firefighters to the Victorian bush fires.

Mr Hatzistergos and Mr Draper met Sergeant Mulheron today at Tamworth Local Court.

He had spent 14 days, on three separate deployments, fighting fires and protecting property alongside his Victorian counterparts.

Mr Hatzistergos praised the efforts of all emergency service personnel deployed to Victoria and said Sergeant Mulheron epitomises the dedication and hard work of RFS volunteers deployed to Victoria.

"When help was needed, RFS volunteers didn't hesitate in heeding the call and performed their tasks with bravery, skill and a minimum of fuss in extremely difficult conditions," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Mr Draper said Mr Mulheron had been a dedicated volunteer member of the RFS for 20 years and, because of his experience, he was called on to lead strike teams based at Healesville and to battle fires at Kinglake, Toolangi and Upwey.

"His dedication to the RFS and his efforts during the recent bush fire crisis are to be commended," Mr Draper said.

NSW Minister for Emergency Services Steve Whan said Sergeant Mulheron was one of four NSW Sheriff's Officers who took leave to fight the Victorian bushfires.

"On behalf of the NSW Government, I would like to thank all emergency service personnel who contributed to the Victorian bush fire effort," Mr Whan said.

"RFS volunteers did an extraordinary job in the most difficult circumstances imaginable."

Sergeant Mulheron, who has been a Sheriff's Officer for 15 years and stationed at Tamworth since 2002, said nothing could have prepared him for the devastation he witnessed in Victoria.

"It was on such a huge scale. Everyone in the car stopped talking as we drove through villages like Marysville and we wondered how this could happen," he said.

"It was such a huge relief when the rain came - we walked around in it just to make sure it was really happening."

After returning to regular duties at the Sheriff's Office in Tamworth on March 9, Sergeant Mulheron reflected on his "humbling" experience in Victoria.

"I felt honoured and privileged to help and was overwhelmed by the appreciation shown by the local people affected by the fires," he said.