



**ATTORNEY-GENERAL
HON ROBERT McCLELLAND MP
AND
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CUNNINGHAM
SHARON BIRD MP**

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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**RUDD GOVERNMENT PROVIDES ILLAWARRA WITH
\$350,000 SEARCH AND RESCUE VEHICLE**

Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, together with the Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, today handed over the keys to a new \$350,000 search and rescue vehicle to be based at the Wollongong Fire Station.

“This vehicle means that the Illawarra and surrounding districts will now have a much better capacity to respond to serious search and rescue and other major incidents,” Ms Bird said.

“It is an extremely high-powered and useful tool that provides a tremendous capability including complex technical search equipment, concrete breaching and cutting tools as well as advanced shoring and building stabilisation equipment.”

“Most importantly, it also allows fire-fighters to work safely in confined spaces in order to rescue those that may be trapped as a result of a car accident, fire, flood, or explosion.”

In 2008, the Rudd Government provided over \$1.3 million to the New South Wales Fire Brigade to enhance its search and rescue capability.

“This funding was used to buy vitally important technical search equipment such as cameras and seismic listening devices, tents for field deployments, and medical equipment,” Mr McClelland said

This investment was part of an overall \$30 million cooperative Urban Search and Rescue Capability Project between Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments.

“This represents another example of Governments working together to improve the emergency management response to potentially life threatening incidents.”