



# Hunter Water Corporation Media Release

Monday 29 September 2013

## **BUSHFIRE SEASON STARTS TUESDAY**

With the official bushfire season starting tomorrow, Hunter Water and the Rural Fire Service are calling on residents to ensure they are prepared for the threat of a local bushfire.

Residents should ensure their water hydrant is clearly marked so that in the event their house is under threat of fire, fire fighters can access the hydrant without unnecessary delay.

Hydrants are marked by a yellow lid usually with a red H painted on it, and are located approximately 100 metres apart of one side of every street in Newcastle and the lower Hunter.

Hunter Water's Chief Operations Officer Darren Cleary said knowing where your nearest water hydrant is can save precious time in a fire.

"The seconds saved by knowing where your hydrant is and keeping it clear of grass and debris could mean saving a life.

"Hunter Water maintains over 50,000 hydrants throughout the region and relies on people living near hydrants to not only keep them clear, but to also let it know when they need painting or repair," he said.

Manager of the Rural Fire Service in the Lower Hunter, Superintendent Jason McKellar said a covered or inaccessible hydrant can mean the difference between saving and losing a property.

"Many people don't realise they have a hydrant in front of their home. Too often grass has grown over a hydrant, sometimes cars are even parked on top of them. For fire fighters, if we can't see your hydrant, we can't connect our hose to it.

"Knowing where your hydrant is and keeping it clear is a neighbourly duty. If you notice a damaged hydrant or one that needs a coat of paint on your street to make it more visible, please contact Hunter Water on 1300 657 657.

"Residents should also take the opportunity to clean out their gutters and tidy up their yards to help protect their property and family from the threat of fire this Summer," Superintendent Jason McKellar said.

The statutory bush fire danger period runs from 1 October to 31 March.