



Office of Hon Mark Burton, M.P. for Taupo

Minister of Defence
Minister of Tourism

~~Minister for SOEs~~
Deputy Leader of the House

25 February 2005

Dear Chief Fire Officer

I am writing to you and your Brigade members' directly to quash the mis-information about rural fire services being cynically circulated by some opposition politicians.

Let me be very clear-

1. There is no plan to reduce fire appliances or services to isolated rural, or any other communities.
2. This government will not allow any cuts to appliances covering isolated rural communities.
3. It is my expectation that over time the New Zealand Fire Service Commission will achieve upgrades of vehicle replacements in order to ensure the maintenance of current levels of coverage and service and preferably to improve them.

I hope this puts to rest any concerns that have been raised.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the service you provide to all New Zealanders.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Burton
Minister Responsible for the Fire Service Commission