



**The Country Fire Service
Volunteers Association**
"Representing the interests of CFS Members"

Working together with CFS REGIONAL COMMITTEES

BULLETIN

16th May 2015

UPDATE: EMERGENCY SERVICES SECTOR REFORM

Today Minister Piccolo released the following statement in relation to sector reform:

"Following feedback from the sector, I realised that the structural reform was a barrier to achieving the object of the reform, which is closer collaboration between the services and efficiencies reinvested in front-line services.

Throughout this process, all stakeholders agreed that some reform was needed but reforms of this nature can only succeed with the support of the people who work in the sector.

Today I have announced that:

- *a Commissioner for the sector will not be appointed;*
- *the proposed structural reforms will be put aside;*
- *the 13 working groups that have been established will continue. Their purpose will now be to inform the longer-term structural and organisational changes that are required.*

There are many opportunities where increased collaboration between the Emergency Services can lead to a better service to the community and more resources for our personnel.

Through the working groups, I am certain we can achieve our common goal.

*Tony Piccolo
Emergency Services Minister"*

The CFSVA is encouraged by the Minister announcement and hopes that this fresh approach will enable concerns raised by CFS volunteers to be addressed and resolved as part of sector reform.

The CFSVA is pleased that the Minister has addressed concerns raised by the association and has commitment to set aside structural reforms and not appoint a Commissioner. This will allow the working groups to deliver clear directions and defined outcomes prior to the implementation of any long-term structural or organisational change.

The Minister's announcement also outlines the important task of the working groups, and on this basis the CFSVA encourages CFS volunteers to seriously consider nominating for the working groups.

The CFSVA also urges volunteers not to become complacent on the basis of the Minister's announcement, but to continue to be involved in the sector reform process to ensure that the best result is achieved for the emergency services sector, for CFS and most importantly for you and your community.

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