



## The Country Fire Service Volunteers Association

*"Representing the interests of CFS Members"*

# Annual General Meeting

## EXECUTIVE REPORT

October 2017

Each year as the AGM approaches it provides me the opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months, however this year I found myself thinking more about the past 4 years as South Australia heads into another state election. It is probably fair to say that since being elected in 2014, the current government has created a considerable amount of turmoil and unrest for our volunteers, and even today some 18 months after Sector Reform was abandoned, mistrust towards government still remains.

Over this period the CFSVA has remained focussed and has been actively involved in defining the future path of CFS; and the vital role it plays within the emergency service sector. It is imperative that we work now to consolidate all that we have gained and position ourselves with strength and unity in preparation for future. It is important that we do not become complacent and continue to pursue our future direction; a direction led by CFS volunteers.

In 2013 in the lead up to the state election the CFSVA prepared a policy booklet which was distributed to all members of Parliament, and whilst the initial result from politicians was limited the booklet has become a living document, and I am pleased to report that a high percentage of the policies contained within the booklet have been addressed, with several completed and others in progress.

A notable achievement over this time has been the recognition of CFS volunteers as equals to paid emergency responders under Return to Work and in particular Presumptive Legislation. This is of great significance as it lifts the profile of our volunteers and highlights the value and significance of the work carried out by our volunteers.

The CFSVA Executive has recently undertaken a very successful round the state roadtrip to meet, discuss and learn from our volunteers, which has enabled us to build onto the 2013 policy booklet, and I would like to thank the numerous volunteers who took the time to meet with us during our travels and shared their views.

Earlier this year the CFSVA released the CFSVA Future Direction Strategy 2016-2020 which supports the 2017 CFSVA Position Document which is currently being prepared by a Committee Chaired by David Lindner and will be ready for distribution in the near future.

This year, for the first time the CFSVA has been given a given a 3 year funding agreement by the Minister for Emergency Services. This means that the CFSVA will be able to meet its strategic direction over the next 3 years with the full knowledge that its funding is secured and not beholden to the political party who wins the next state election.

At this point I would like to acknowledge Andy Wood, CFSVA President, Roger Flavell, CFSVA Vice President, and David Lindner, CFSVA Deputy Vice President, as well as the members of both the Executive Committee and Management Committee; your elected representatives are respected members of the CFSVA team and have represented you well.

I would also like to thank Kirsti Oliver for her great effort and flexibility in providing me and the Management Committee with much needed back up support.

Thank you also to all the CFS members who have represented the CFSVA on numerous committees throughout the year, and who have given their time to ensure that the CFSVA continues to have strong representation at all levels.

To our CFS volunteers, you are fortunate to have such a dedicated team carrying forward matters on your behalf, and I encourage you all to support your elected representatives so that your thoughts and opinions are truly represented at all levels.

I would also like to acknowledge all our CFS volunteers and their families without whose dedication, passion and generosity a strong emergency service response across South Australia would not exist.

The CFSVA will continue to deliver outcomes for you, however it is only with the support of volunteers that the CFSVA is able to be part of a strong CFS, and the wider emergency services sector.

We urge you all to be part of the journey and to continue to be masters of your destiny.

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