



CFSVA

BULLETIN

**AUGUST
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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION

The Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA) is recognised as an association under the SA Fire and Emergency Services act 2005. The association represents SA Country Fire Service (CFS) brigades and is empowered to take such steps as may be reasonably available to it to protect and progress the interests and welfare of CFS volunteers.

This bulletin provides an update on some of the news and current affairs affecting CFS members.

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2014

EMERGENCY SERVICES SECTOR REFORM

On the 14th August Minister Piccolo held his Roundtable 2 at Parliament House, with representatives from CFS, CFSVA, SES, SESVA, MFS, United Firefighters Union, Public Sector Association, Volunteer Marine Rescue, SAPOL, SAAS, SAAS Volunteers Association, Premier and Cabinet, Attorney Generals Department, SAFECOM and the Minister's staff attending. At this meeting Minister Piccolo provided an overview of the regional meetings and visits and reaffirmed the key principles established during Roundtable 1

The Minister advised that he had received a number of submissions in relation to the sector reform which will form the basis of the discussion paper currently being prepared. It is anticipated that the discussion paper will be released in late August / early September and will widely distributed for comment by key stakeholders before progressing to the stage of the reform process. The CFSVA will advise CFS volunteers when the discussion paper is released.

At Roundtable 2, the Minister did not table a new model, but made reference to the model used by the Minister throughout the consultation process. The Minister further indicated that he intends to visit VIC, QLD and WA and overview interstate models and operational methods of other jurisdictions. Late last week the Minister released a Communique which provides a summary of the reform process to date and indication the future direction of his sector reform program.

The communique along with other relevant information can be viewed at the following website and is also re-produced below:

http://www.safecom.sa.gov.au/site/initiatives_reviews/sector_reform_2014.jsp

Sector Reform 2014 Communique 2

Between June and August 2014, Minister for Emergency Services, Tony Piccolo has undertaken a series of roundtable discussions and site visits with key stakeholders within the Emergency Services Sector. This process is in response to the Holloway Review into the Fire and Emergency Services Act, 2005 and to ensure the Emergency Service Sector is appropriately resourced into the future.



The Country Fire Service
Volunteers Association



www.cfsva.or.gau

EMERGENCY SERVICES SECTOR REFORM cont.

Organisations involved in the initial roundtables included representatives from:

- SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM)
- Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS)
- Country Fire Service (CFS)
- State Emergency Service (SES)
- South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS)
- South Australian Police (SAPOL)
- United Firefighters Union SA (UFU)
- CFS Volunteer's Association (CFSVA)
- SES Volunteer's Association (SESVA)
- Public Service Association (PSA)
- Police Association of South Australia (PASA)
- Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC)
- Ambulance Employee Association (AEA)
- SAAS Volunteer Ambulance Service.

At the first combined roundtable held at Parliament House on 12 June 2014, key guiding principles were agreed upon and circulated in a Reform Communique. The key principles included:

- *One integrated organisation, delivering three services, with the ability to allocate resources and deliver a response on a state-wide basis, reflective of state-wide risks;*
- *Acknowledging the important role volunteers play in the sector;*
- *Maintaining the existing high level of frontline services (and increasing the opportunity for greater collaboration/cooperation); and*
- *Retaining a level of autonomy (and flexibility) at the local level for volunteers and ensure that they have representation at the highest level of decision making in any proposed sector reform.*

Key principles were further discussed during roundtable discussions held in the Riverland, Port Augusta, Clare, Kangaroo Island, Maitland, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, Belair, Hahndorf, Noarlunga, Mawson Lakes, and Gawler.

The Minister has also held individual discussions with Emergency Services staff (MFS, SES, CFS and SAFECOM) and their union/association representatives, and with the Volunteer Marine Rescue Council, SES Unit Managers Advisory Group, CFSVA and UFU.

During this period the Minister, Chief Officers/Chief Executive and the union/association representatives have visited over 30 units, brigades, stations and flotillas across the State, meeting with volunteers, retained officers and staff to discuss the reform and other local issues. Furthermore, the Minister has received 60 written submissions.

While SAAS and SAPOL are not expected to be part of any future model, they have been engaging in the process as one of the sector's key stakeholders. In particular, SAAS has previously undertaken a reform process involving both paid staff and volunteers and has valuable experience to contribute.

EMERGENCY SERVICES SECTOR REFORM cont.

In his presentation, the Minister has clearly indicated the reform is not about reducing or amalgamating frontline services (brigades, stations or units), but a method of identifying duplication and inefficiencies and method by which to create opportunities and a sector structure that will deliver savings that can be reinvested back into frontline services, facilities, equipment, volunteer support and training.

To date, more than 1,500 people have engaged in the reform process. All roundtables and site visits have been well received with robust debate and valuable input provided into the sector reform.

On 14 August 2014, the Minister convened a second combined roundtable at Parliament House to provide key stakeholders with an overview of the consultation process to date, which will form the basis of a discussion paper. The discussion paper will capture ideas and concepts for consideration and will be circulated broadly for comment during late August/early September.

The Minister will be meeting with several interstate Commissioners and union and volunteer association representatives to learn about their emergency service models prior to developing a model suitable for South Australia's unique circumstances.

The next roundtable will be held in late September-early October once the sector has had the opportunity to respond to the discussion paper. This roundtable will comprise a broader stakeholder group. At this point a project team with key expertise will be established to develop concepts, establish working groups and consider implementation processes.

It is envisioned that recommendations about a sector model will be prepared for government consideration later this year. Should government agree to the model developed by the sector, implementation will be carefully managed to ensure it does not interfere with frontline services during the fire danger season, and will be phased in over one or more years.

For further information, please email SAFECOM.SectorReview@sa.gov.au

There has been questions raised by volunteers who attended earlier session as to the progress of the reform process, hopefully Communique 2 will answer most of your queries.

The Minister has provided you with a unique opportunity to contribute to the future of emergency services in South Australia. The CFSVA encourages all CFS volunteers to be a part of this process and express their views during the sector reform process.

The CFSVA would also like to thank the many volunteers who provided copies of their submissions to the CFSVA, your feedback will assist us to present your views.

PRESUMPTIVE LEGISLATION

The Labor Government has honoured its pre-election commitment to of a review of the presumptive legislation and is currently awaiting an actuaries report which is should be completed shortly. Once this report is available further discussions between the CFSVA and Government will take place.

The CFSVA maintain its position that a review is not our preferred option, as the presumptive legislation should be a matter of equity for all firefighters, but appreciates the ability to work with Government on this very important matter to achieve the best outcome for CFS volunteers.

As was reported in our last Bulletin Tammy Franks' Bill (Greens) successfully passed through the Legislative Council, and has now been referred to the House of Representatives where it will be tabled by Duncan McFetridge. This Bill provides equality for all firefighters under the Presumptive Legislation regardless of whether the firefighter is a volunteer or paid. The Bill was scheduled to go to vote on the 24th July 2014 however at this stage has been deferred.

25km PAST EMERGENCY VEHICLES

As from the 1st September 2014 the 25km past emergency vehicles legislation will come into effect. SAFECOM has commenced its public awareness campaign which was launched by Minister Piccolo on the 10th August 2014.

Many CFS volunteers will be pleased to see that finally after 8 years of Parliamentary debate that this legislation will finally be enacted – providing volunteers with a safer work place. The slogan for this campaign is:

“PROTECT THOSE WHO PROTECT YOU”

Thank you to all those who have worked relentlessly on this matter to create a safer environment for emergency responders.



CFSVA MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The CFSVA membership program will soon commence. The CFSVA is currently working through the logistics of card distribution with our membership card partners MOGAS, and you will be advised shortly how distribution will occur via the CFSVA and your brigade.

If you are a business owner and would like to be involved in the CFSVA Membership Card Please contact Kirsti Oliver via kirsti.oliver@cfsva.org.au



CFSVA NATIONAL PARK PASSES

CFSVA Office together with DEWNR have now completed the process of distributing the CFSVA National Park Passes. All CFS Volunteers that received a National Park Pass last year have been automatically provided with a pass this year. The passes have been emailed to CFS Volunteers CFS Portal email address. To date 463 passes have been issued. If you have not received your National Park Pass contact the CFSVA Office via email kirsti.oliver@cfsva.org.au

We thank the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) for this program. The intent of the Parks Pass is to recognise the direct relationship between CFS Volunteers and South Australia's National Park System.



For further information or to comment:

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