



The Country Fire Service Volunteers Association

"Representing the interests of CFS Members"

SAFECOM BOARD REPORT October 2020

As commented in my CFSVA Executive Report, perhaps most frustrating and disappointing for me as a SAFECOM Board member has been the inordinate amount of time and precious resources which have focused on Domenic Lane's Analysis document which elevated one man's opinion over and above the needs of the sector.

Ironically, the previous Minister, Corey Wingard fully endorsed Domenic Lane's analysis and its recommendation, prior to seeking legal opinion from the Crown Solicitor or consulting with the sector. Such contempt is astounding and debases the very foundations which underpin the emergency services sector.

The CEO and Minister disregard for legislation has drawn the ire of several SAFECOM Board members who are focused on ensuring that the SAFECOM Board maintains its integrity and meets its statutory obligations as required under the FES Act. It is also interesting to note the SAFECOM CEO's analysis has drawn scrutiny on his ability to lead the sector, with several calls made for him to stand down.

The South Australian Government report commissioned into the 2019-2020 Bushfire Season (Keelty Review) made reference to SAFECOM as an agency and recommended that an independent Chair be appointed to the SAFECOM Board to avoid conflicts of interest as the SAFECOM CEO is currently also the presiding officer. This recommendation is supported by the SAFECOM Board and an Amendment Bill is currently being prepared to enable this legislative change to occur.

The SAFECOM Board is fully supportive of the Sector Advisory Committee (SAC), recognising it is the united voice of the sector and a vital link between key stakeholders and the SAFECOM Board.

The SAFECOM Board will soon meet to review the SAFECOM Board Charter and focus its attention on overseeing the sector as is required under the FES Act, and use its legislated powers to advance and support the emergency services sector.

Sonia St Alban
CFSVA Nominee to the SAFECOM Board