



**The Country Fire Service
Volunteers Association**

"Representing the interests of CFS Members"

CFSVA Pre-Election Bulletin

March 2022

As many of you are aware the CFSVA has for some time been lobbying on your behalf in the lead up to the March State election. The key aim of the CFSVA lobbying is to seek political commitment to encourage and support the long-term sustainability of volunteering within the Country Fire Service.

We hope that you find the following information of benefit when deciding on how to cast your vote.

CFSVA Introduction:

CFS' 13,500 volunteers contribute an economic value of over \$150 million per annum to the South Australian economy. This is equal to over \$600 million per any 4 year term of Government.

For years, Governments (both Labor and Liberal), have consistently praised CFS volunteers for their selfless, dedication and commitment and insist that volunteers will never be taken for granted, however the following facts suggest differently.

Facts:

- *CFS has the lowest staff to volunteer ratio in Australia*
- *CFS' staff to volunteer ratio is 1.3% compared to SASES which is 7% (7% is approximately the correct staff to volunteer ratio)*
- *The Report on Government Services 2021 (RoGS 2021) released by Productivity Commission in January 2022 identifies that the per capita funding to the South Australian Fire Services (CFS and MFS) is consistently below the Australian average.*

Statistics:

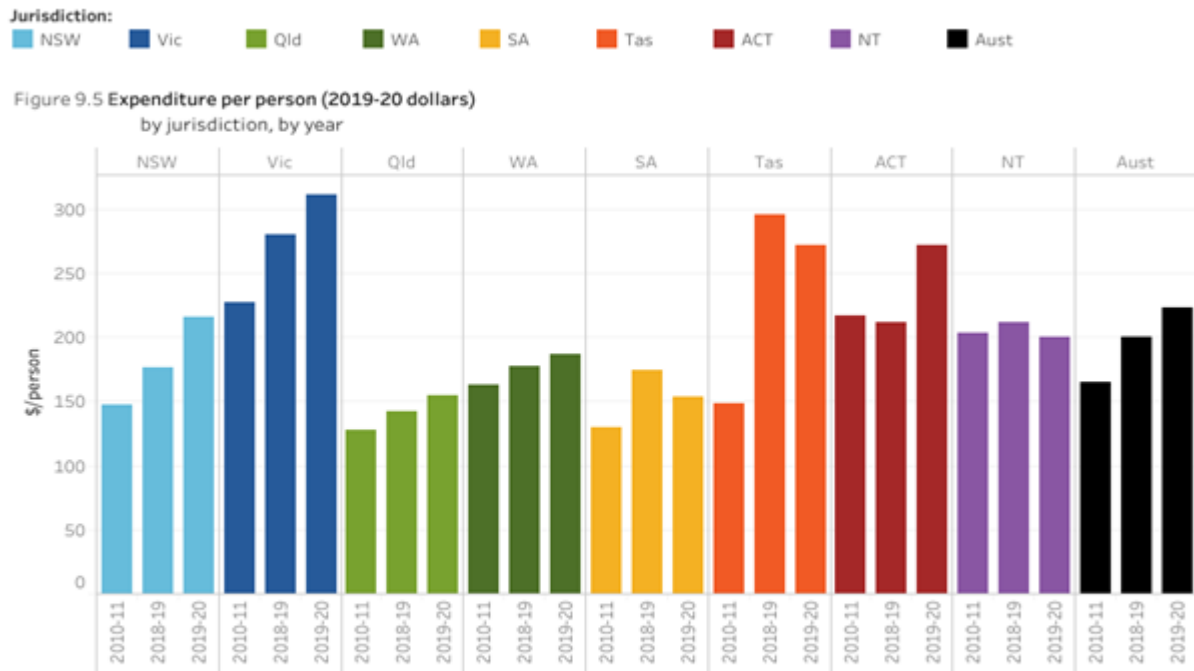
Report on Government Services 2021 (RoGS 2021) Statistics

Year	SA Funding per Capita Fire Services (CFS & MFS)	National Average
2020/2021	162.12	181.79
2019/2020	156.05	219.44
2018/2019	176.88	202.84
2017/2018	190.92 (MFS Enterprise Agreement)	183.62
2016/2017	144.31	173.25

Report on Government Services 2021 (RoGS 2021)

Fire Services: Expenditure per person by state

(2019/2020)



Source: table 9A.13

Nationally in 2019-20, the total expenditure of fire service organisations was \$223 per person in the population, continuing the annual increase from 2016-17. Expenditure data disaggregated by labour, capital and other costs are available in table 9A.13.

Facts continued:

- ***These statistics identify that whilst other states impacted by major bushfires during the 2019/2020 fire season have increased funding to their state fire services, funding to the South Australian fire services (CFS & MFS) has in fact decreased.***

The CFSVA pre-election lobbying focused on 3 key areas:

- Funding to support the CFS Strategic Plan so that the long term future (10-20 years) can be defined.
- Funding to support the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of CFS stations across South Australia.
- Funding to support the CFSVA to modernising its current structure and implementation of a succession plan

<https://cfsva.org.au/policies-and-reports/strategic-plan-and-election-policies>

Major South Australian Political Parties and independents were all approached and given the opportunity to put forward their party's commitments to CFS volunteers should they be successful in the March 2022 election. Below is a summary of the responses received.

Labor Party:

Commitments:

- *Will revisit the response so far to the recommendations of the Keelty Review into the 2019/20 bushfires and ensure that any outstanding actions - particularly those which affect the safety and welfare of CFS volunteers - are implemented as soon as practicable.*
- *Introduce electronic monitoring for Arsonists during fire season*
- *Strongly advocate for a National Aerial Fleet*

CFSVA Note:

[Attachment 1](#)

[Outstanding Actions: Keelty Review 2019/2020 Fire Season](#)

Liberal Party:

Commitments:

- *Commits to continuing to build on our investments and work with the CFS to implement the CFS Strategic Plan 2021-2025*
- *Commits to continuing to deliver and appropriately fund project Renew*
- *Commits to reviewing the funding arrangements for the CFSVA.*

CFSVA Note:

It is hard to build on our investments when CFS' funding is going backwards (RoGS Report 2021)

Independent Members:

[Attachment 2](#)

[Narungga Electoral Office – Fraser Ellis MP](#)

The CFSVA hopes that this Bulletin has provided you with key information which will allow you to make an informed choice when casting your vote in the forthcoming State election.

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