



**The Country Fire Service  
Volunteers Association**

*"Representing the interests of CFS Members"*

## **SAFECOM BOARD REPORT**

**October 2023**

The SAFECOM Board continues to focus primarily on overarching sector issues and acting on recommendations from the Sector Advisory Committee and providing advice to the Minister.

The appointment of an independent Chair to the Board has enabled the SAFECOM CEO, Julia Waddington-Powell more flexibility to focus and respond to matter raised through the Board, and for SAFECOM itself, to refer to its legislative obligations under the FES Act by providing support services to CFS, MFS and SES particularly in areas of Human Resources and Project management.

This year the SAFECOM Board has identified several issues that will impact the emergency services over the coming years. These include climate change; sector funding; and retention and recruitment of volunteers. Each of these issues are complex issues and will require much attention now and into the future.

The relationship between the SAFECOM Board and the Sector Advisory Committee is recognised, and the lines of reporting strengthened to support the Sector Advisory Committee's work and its ability to influence the SAFECOM Board. The CFSVA has long fought for the survival of the Sector Advisory Committee, recognising the value this committee brings to the sector, and is pleased that our efforts have been successful.

The CFSVA has strong representation on both the SAFECOM Board and the Sector Advisory Committee and looks forward to continuing the influential representation of our members at this level.

Sonia St Alban  
Executive Director