



**Country Fire Service
Volunteers Association**
"Representing the Interests of CFS Members"

STATE PRESIDENT REPORT 2024-2025

After compiling many reports over the years, I find this report to be the most positive and progressive report that I have had the pleasure to deliver.

The CFSVA has truly represented the membership to an exceedingly high level, whilst in the main, most of the representation, lobbying and strategic conversations happen behind the scenes and goes unnoticed. In spite of that, the Association has constantly delivered improvements for volunteers.

The restructure of the agency is of significant importance; with the corporate prominence being moved to the background and support to the volunteers on the front line increasing. This is already being evidenced by the operational ability of the CFS Executive and two Directors of Regional Operations to provide greater support to the Regions. The CFSVA have been deliberate and professional whilst delivering the concerns of volunteers to CFS relating to the previous structure and has been instrumental in effecting such change.

Whilst the CFSVA remit is to deal with matters that are outside of the operational scope, it has been necessary to engage on matters like training, a risk to the membership had been identified, especially in the urban firefighting space. The CFSVA supported the CFS to secure funding for the "Urban Uplift" training. This included the VA providing an evidence and risk-based presentation to the Minister of Emergency Services. We also acknowledge the great effort of Tim McNeily for the number of presentations and data provided to Government in the interests of safety for our membership.

Securing the funding for the statewide facility audit was also a highlight for the Association. CFS will now have a factual data base to enable upgrades or station replacements moving forward. This infrastructure is paramount to our brigades, not only to be a place to respond from, but it also needs to be adequate in facilities for meetings, training and attractive for the recruitment and retention of new and current members.

Our attendance at the Sector Advisory Committee has enabled a higher level of engagement with our Sector partners and a greater collaborative and holistic Sector approach. This Committee is starting to come of age, and the previous siloed approach is starting to diminish. The Committee have provided sound advice to the SAFECOM Board and looks forward to the continued flow of information at this level.

The structural changes to CFS highlighted the opportunity for the CFSVA to conduct an internal review, something that has not taken place for a long time. Whilst this review has passed through the CFSVA Board and contains recommendations there is still a considerable body of work still to take place. Consultation with the Branch Presidents and members will be vital to the success of the future of the CFSVA. Understandably, change can be confronting, but we will not be making change just for the sake of change. The Association needs to modernise and ensure we are consulting on a broad scale plus delivering the best outcomes for volunteers; we need to work smarter not harder. I ask all Presidents to engage with this review objectively and prioritise our performance and purpose. This review provides the scope for the Association to enter into a needed second phase.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge our two new Branch Presidents Leila McEgan from the Lofty Branch, I believe Leila is creating CFSVA history by being the first CFSVA Female President, hopefully the start of a new trend. We also welcome Adrian Wright as the Riverland Branch President; Adrian comes to the CFSVA with a long CFS history and have no doubt Adrian's involvement will be of significant benefit to the Riverland members and the CFSVA in general. I thank Ivan Hosking the outgoing Lofty Branch President for his dedication and commitment to the Branch and the CFSVA.

Whilst this report takes only minutes to deliver, there is countless hours of meetings, consultation and documentation to generate the results that we deliver and to that end I thank Sonia, Kirsti, the Executive team and all of the Branch Presidents and delegates for their commitment and dedication to the members of the SA Country Fire Service via the Volunteers Association. I look forward to your continued support as we move the CFSVA into a new chapter.

Yours in service,

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