

SAFECOM Board Report for CFSVA Annual General Meeting

October 2017

The SAFECOM board has again had it's challenges as the efficiency dividends put in place by Kevin Foley continue to make an impact on what can be achieved without further funding from the government.

Added to this is the recommendations from the Burns report that have been channelled to SAFECOM.

It is to a point where the board through the CEO has advised the Minister that it cannot fulfil the responsibilities that have been assigned to it due to lack of funding.

Some of the tasks have been completed, with the goodwill of the chief officers of the three services committing their resources, to get the most important projects done.

This has caused some concern to board members during the year and we have sort clarification as to who is responsible if there is a major incident and the recommendations from various reports haven't had the attention they should have.

The Mt Barker issue has continued to roll along, but without the government providing funding for any changes, there will not be any progress in the moved to any sort of a paid service.

There has been considerable research done on whether there is a model that can predict the best time to make the change from Volunteer to paid fire services, however nothing has been found that could make the job easier.

This being considered the DCO's of the 3 services have been tasked to come up with a state fire and rescue plan that can be used as a tool in the future.

From what I have witnessed over the last couple of years, the current government is very shy about increasing the levy and providing extra resources to the services, so that will limit any paid service increases.

As my first term on the board expired on the 30th of June and the Minister had put forward some options for change, I have sat in on the board meetings in a voluntary capacity without a vote since then to ensure volunteer interests were still considered.

Overall the board members have worked well together providing the best possible outcome for the three services with the current funding, taking into account the new buzzwords of "Public Value"

There will need to be significant extra funding to fulfil the recommendations of the Burns report.

Roger Flavell

