



The Country Fire Service Volunteers Association

"Representing the interests of CFS Members"

General Meeting

EXECUTIVE REPORT

April 2018

Since our last meeting in October 2017 the Association has been very active in pursuing matters on behalf of all volunteers.

The roadtrip conducted by the CFSVA last year helped us to gain some valuable insight into the needs and wants of our volunteers and formed the basis for our 2018 state election platform. By prioritising these points the association was able to form a solid position to take to political parties in the lead up to the state election.

The CFSVA position document was introduced to politicians as a 'living document' – one that we will build upon as time progresses and will enhance the delivery of emergency services by our professional CFS volunteers into the future. The document and presentation made by the CFSVA to all political parties and individuals was very well received and was followed up with a number of pre-election commitments. At the time of making these presentations the respect exhibited towards both the Association and our volunteers was apparent, and the position put forward on behalf of our volunteers taken seriously by all political persuasions.

Subsequently we have had a change of Government with Corey Wingard announced as the Minister for Emergency Services, and the association scheduled to meet with the Minister this afternoon. Further, only just recently, Lee Odenwalder was appointed Shadow Minister. The association will endeavour to meet with him in due course.

At the end of October my appointment to the SAFECOM Board as the CFSVA's nomination, with David Lindner as my proxy was made official. The SAFECOM Board meets monthly and to date I have attended 3 meetings, and has provided me with a more holistic overview of the emergency services sector.

Earlier this week Andy Wood and I attended CAVFA meetings in Melbourne. As a collective group CAVFA represents over 250,000 volunteer firefighters Australiawide, and I can't stress enough the importance of meeting, sharing and learning from interstate counterparts. CAVFA also serves as a measuring tool for us against the other states, both in the way we operate as an Association and also under the CFS brand, and I am very pleased to say that we score highly in both cases.

I would also like to congratulate Andy Wood who was elected to the CAVFA Executive Committee during this recent meeting.

Over the coming months and years, the CFSVA will continue to progress the Future Direction Strategy 2016-2020, which as defined by our volunteers, is the blue print for CFS into the future, and to achieve this, we must consolidate and position ourselves with strength and unity in preparation for the future - a future which is led by CFS volunteers for many years to come.

Sonia St Alban
Executive Director
Country Fire Service Volunteers Association
soniastalban@cfsva.org.au
Mobile: 0408 133 349