



31st August, 2015

Mr David O'Byrne
Fire Services Review
Level 19, 121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear David

Review of the MFB and CFA

I am pleased to provide the attached written submission to Minister Garrett's Review of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB) and Country Fire Authority (CFA). I ask that this submission be treated as confidential and I will advise the review team when the submission can become a public document.

In addition to this submission, VFBV has also provided you with copies of; VFBV submissions to the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (VBRC), the *Report into the Effect of Arrangements made by CFA on its Volunteers* (the Jones Inquiry) and our formal submission to that inquiry, VFBV's submission to the Victorian Government's Green Paper titled *Towards a More Disaster Resilient and Safer Victoria*, the *Report on the Processes to Select New Personal Protective Clothing for Victorian Firefighters* (the Lewis Report), VFBV's response to *Victoria's Fire Services Property Levy Options Paper*, and the *2014 VFBV Volunteer Welfare and Efficiency Survey Report*.

We ask that these combined documents be considered as our input to the Review, along with the many individual and brigade submissions reflecting the views of volunteers.

VFBV makes this submission to the Victorian State Government's 2015 Review of the Fire Services (the Review) with best endeavour recognising the surprisingly short four week time frame for submissions given the breadth of the terms of reference and unavailability of information on the triggers for the review or the outcome it is seeking to achieve.

Volunteers across Victoria have made strong representation to VFBV that the period set for the review was unreasonably short and not consistent with the spirit nor obligations of the Volunteer Charter. VFBV is hopeful that the review will not attempt to make recommendations for changes that are beyond the scope of the time constraints set for the Review.

The level of ongoing concern about the short time frame and consultation period for this Review will depend on the scope of the Reviews deliberations. Beyond the two month period set for the review, CFA volunteers deserve and will expect adequate opportunity for further consultation on any major change options/proposals that might affect them before decisions are made. VFBV remains willing to assist the review team in whatever way we can and look forward to the opportunity for volunteers to be further engaged in discussion prior to decisions being made.

Volunteers have noted with interest the Minister's statements at the time of the announcement of the Review, that an amalgamation of CFA and MFB "is not on the Government's agenda" and that "Victoria's fire services and their boundaries will remain intact". VFBV submission has been made on the understanding that these issues are not being considered by the Review.

I provide the following submission to the Review and offer any further assistance the Review team may require.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Ford
Chief Executive Officer

(477:2015)