

Communications

During the year, the Board approved development of a Call Taking Centre and system to provide call taking services in country Victoria. There are seven phases for the rollout of the country call taking system across the State, with Phase One due for cut over in late October 2003.

CFA and Emergency Communications Victoria (ECV) are now processing a variation to the existing contract for call taking in the BEST CAD area. In accordance with this contract, ECV has issued an impact analysis which will form part of the overall submission to the CAD Contract Management Group (CADCMG). The functional baseline documents for design of the system were approved by CFA in June 2003 and this involved nine system changes to better meet the operational requirements of regional and rural Victorian brigades.

Assignment areas and response data for brigades included in Phase One of the program are now complete. Phase One involves the Buninyong Group only, which will have its emergency calls taken by the centre later this year. Scenario testing of the system is scheduled to commence in October 2003, and will involve members of the User Reference Group which includes representatives of the VRFBA, VUFBA, UFU and other stakeholders.

