



# GOVERNMENT REFORMS TO FIRE SERVICES IN VICTORIA



## Reform of Victoria's fire services

On May 19 the State Government announced a significant reform to the way fire services are delivered in Victoria.

The main aspects of the reforms include:

- CFA to be enshrined in legislation as a volunteer firefighting and emergency service;
- A new organisation called Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) to be established which will bring together career staff from 47 MFB stations and 35 CFA integrated stations to service metropolitan Melbourne and major regional centres;
- New laws to give all firefighters equal access to compensation for cancers contracted while in the line of duty;
- A new \$56 million CFA Support Fund to strengthen volunteer recruitment, retention and training options, expand brigade support and develop leadership; and
- A \$44 million CFA capital expenditure program.

The government has also announced the creation of an Emergency Services Infrastructure Authority.

Under the reforms, CFA operational employees and some support staff will move to FRV and some staff will also transfer to the new infrastructure authority.

We will provide support for everyone directly impacted and importantly, there will be no job losses or redundancies. This includes Professional, Technical Administrative staff, whether at headquarters in Burwood or in districts.

We will continue to have a secondment model, similar to what currently exists between CFA and MFB. This will provide capacity to have operational staff employed by FRV seconded into CFA as required.



## When does this all start?

This reform will require legislation passing the Victorian Parliament.

There will be a structured transition process and a group including CFA Chief Officer Steve Warrington and the former Commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW, Greg Mullins AFSM will work through operational planning around the transition.

There will also be an exhaustive recruitment process to appoint a Commissioner to head FRV. The FRV Commissioner will report directly to the Minister, and will work alongside CFA's Chief Officer Steve Warrington and Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley.

## CFA

- CFA's 1,220 volunteer brigades will continue to serve and protect their communities just as they always have.
- Volunteer brigades at integrated stations will have a range of options, including co-locating at these stations.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

- ESIA will deliver station upgrades and new builds from the \$44 million CFA capital fund announced in the Fire Services Statement.

## FRV

- MFB and CFA career firefighters will become part of Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), servicing metropolitan Melbourne and major regional centres.
- There will be no job losses or redundancies for career firefighters and staff.



## What additional support will be provided for volunteers?

Brigades within integrated stations will be consulted about the best way to support their needs, whether it is extra equipment or support officers. There will be a structured engagement process led by CFA at each of these brigades.

## What about assignment areas?

Assignment areas remain unchanged, and the Fire District Panel will be established for future policy setting.

At all times, the priority will be putting the community first and we acknowledge the importance of maintaining safe systems of work for all responders.

Underscoring these reforms will be a need for interoperability between CFA and FRV.

On the ground this means more flexibility and a better connection between both agencies.

We will work through practical issues like radio frequencies, and equipment and report back in the coming weeks and months.

## Got a question?

Try our Frequently Asked Questions:  
<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about/fire-services-reform/>

Give us a call on our dedicated information line **1300 339 558**.  
You can also email us at [fireservicesreform@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:fireservicesreform@cfa.vic.gov.au)