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14 May 2015

Our ref: CD/15/175032\*

Mr Andrew Ford  
Chief Executive Officer  
Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria  
PO Box 453  
Mt Waverley Victoria 3149

Dear Mr Ford

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER STATEMENT**

In recognition of the significant contribution that volunteers make in all aspects of emergency management, Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) is developing an Emergency Management Volunteer Statement (the Statement).

The Statement will reinforce the Victorian Government's commitment to consult and engage with volunteers in emergency management, and their representative bodies on matters that affect them. It will also reflect the government's commitment to recognise, value and respect volunteers from all agencies and from all backgrounds.

The Statement refers to the requirements in the *Emergency Management Act 2013* that both EMV and the Emergency Management Commissioner must, in performing their functions "have regard to the fundamental importance of the role that volunteers play in the performance of emergency management functions in Victoria". It is aligned to, and reinforces the sector vision, goals and values and the importance of volunteers, to Government, agencies, business and the community.

The proposed Statement has no impact on the CFA Volunteer Charter, designed for CFA volunteers.

As you are aware, on Wednesday 11 March 2015, EMV presented a paper and draft Emergency Management Volunteer Statement to the Volunteer Consultative Forum (VCF) for their consideration and feedback. The Statement supports the VCF terms of reference by recognising the importance of a broad coalition of emergency management volunteers and their role in emergency management. VCF members have given 'in principle' support and have provided feedback that is incorporated in the Statement.

On 12 May 2015, 'in principle' support for the Statement was received from the Hon Daniel Andrews MP, Premier of Victoria and the Hon Jane Garrett MP, Minister for Emergency Services.

Volunteer agencies listed on the Statement are those represented at the VCF and listed in the Emergency Management Manual Victoria as having roles in emergency management before, during and after emergencies. However, the Statement is intended to be inclusive and encompass all emergency management volunteering in Victoria.



I have enclosed an updated **draft** copy of the Statement for your consideration and feedback. For further information about the Statement, you can contact Ms Julie McLean, EMV Senior Policy Officer on (03) 86851324 or by email [julie.mclean@emv.vic.gov.au](mailto:julie.mclean@emv.vic.gov.au).

Feedback on the Statement is due by Friday 17 July 2015, allowing time for you to consult with your volunteers and stakeholders as required. I am also requesting that you liaise with the VFBV Board, seeking their endorsement for the Statement, including the use of an electronic signature for the President, Mr Hans van Hammond. Please provide your feedback and endorsement to Ms Julie McLean, along with Mr van Hammond's electronic signature.

Once all feedback has been received, design and production of the Statement will commence. It is anticipated that the Emergency Management Volunteer Statement will be launched and distributed in August/September 2015. Further information will be provided to you prior to this taking place.

This project is a great opportunity to formally recognise the importance of emergency management volunteers to agencies, government, communities and business.

Yours sincerely



Craig Lapsley PSM  
**Chair, Volunteer Consultative Forum**  
**Emergency Management Commissioner**

cc: Mr Hans van Hammond, President VFBV

Encl.