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CEO Andrew Ford
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23rd June 2008

**TO: All Volunteer Fire Brigades
Regional Councils
Groups
(As addressed)**

Dear Secretary,

**Establishing a single unified representative body for all CFA volunteers
– POSITION PAPER**

Please find attached, a position paper explaining the constitutional and structural changes proposed to unite the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association (VUFBA) and the Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association (VRFBA) as Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) as a single body representing all CFA volunteers. The changes mean that VUFBA and VRFBA will cease to operate as stand alone entities.

The full constitution is attached plus a summary document for those who seek to gain a quick understanding of what is being proposed.

This paper has been developed following extensive discussion and consultation with both Associations over a number of years. The formation of a single unified Association to represent all CFA volunteers will provide improved influence from a higher profile united volunteer voice; will strengthen volunteer representation by harnessing our combined numbers; and will achieve more effective use of our collective effort and resources.

The recommended changes have been developed by a VFBV working party established in April 2007 and comprising the following members:

Gary Lyttle, Chairman VFBV,
Rob Waterson, President VUFBA,
Bruce Vine, Vice President VRFBA,
Shane Cramer, VRFBA (Reg 15),
Bruce Pickett, VUFBA (Reg 7),
Peter Davis VUFBA Secretary,
Andrew Ford, VFBV CEO

Hans van Hamond, VFBV Board member,
Peter Downes, President VRFBA,
Peter White, Vice President VUFBA,
Bill Maltby, VUFBA (Reg 2),
Bob Horner VRFBA (Reg 13),
Bob MacDonald, VRFBA Executive Officer,

Bernie Pearson was an active member of the working party until he passed away.

A fundamental objective of the proposed model is for strong representation and engagement at all key decision making levels of CFA and particularly from the local level. In addition to the structural changes outlined in the discussion paper, one of VFBV's key priorities for the future is to strengthen and empower Regional Councils to achieve the influence and input required to ensure solid volunteer input at both the local and state level.

Great care has been taken by the working party to develop the structure and constitutional arrangements that address the majority feedback. This paper will now provide Brigades, Groups and Regional Councils with an opportunity to consider the details involved with the change prior to a decision at the 2008 Annual General Meetings of VRFBA and VUFBA, in August and September respectively. Assuming the proposal is supported at each of these meetings a final decision will be made at a VFBV Special General Meeting to be held on 4th October this year. I encourage you to take time to read the attached papers and to contribute positively to the decision making process outlined in the paper. The changes need your support in order to be formally adopted and implemented.

The proposed constitutional changes for VFBV require consideration by Regional Councils prior to the VFBV Annual General Meeting (to be held 4th October 2008). During the past year VFBV representatives have visited most Regional Councils to discuss the changes and VFBV Board Members will be available between now and October to attend meetings of any Regional Council wishing to discuss the proposed future arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Ford', with a small blue dot at the end of the line.

Andrew Ford
CEO, Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria