



The Hon Tony Piccolo MP
Minister for Emergency Services
GPO Box 668
Adelaide SA 5001

*Cleft,
Please acknowledge
appropriately -
Mike*

Monday 12 October 2014

Dear Sir

Re: Emergency Services Sector Reform

As members of the Brukunga Brigade, which is part of the Heysen Group in the Mount Lofty Ranges, we are writing to you in connection with the proposed changes to the current Emergency Services Model.

After exploring the issues surrounding your document "A Safer Community", the Brigade, which currently has 38 volunteers amounting to over 150 years combined experience are **strongly opposed** to any change at present due to the following concerns:

- Lack of specific information in regards to how the separate tiers will work and who (agency wise) will undertake the positions highlighted within each tier. This is of particular concern in terms of the management of the frontline services in Tier 5 from the region/zone level
- The culture of the volunteer has been overlooked throughout the document. The role played by the volunteers should be specifically acknowledged
- Outcomes from similar models introduced Interstate (WA, Victoria and Queensland) require closer scrutiny in terms of their success
- Achievement of equity in funding across agencies has not been outlined in detail, especially as your document states "resources will be allocated reflective of state-wide risks" which implies equity will be difficult to achieve
- No specific outline of boundaries for each zone
- Benefits of this reform for the frontline services was not discussed
- No specific outline as to how equity will be achieved in terms of the training plan when comparing what is offered to volunteers and paid MFS staff

In conclusion, we would like to stress the importance to you of thoroughly reviewing the implications and consequences of the proposed reform on the current delivery of emergency support given by the volunteers.

Finally, it may be important to remember and reflect upon the millions of dollars saved each year by the volunteer members of the CFS, whom without question give up their time, leave their place of employment and families 24/7, 365 days a year to provide a lifesaving community service.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Vangameren
Captain
Brukunga CFS Brigade

Anthony Grace
CFSVA Rep
Brukunga CFS Brigade