

# Emergency Services Reform Office

## Newsletter

### Site visits

The ESRO team are committed to meeting with people within the sector to discuss the progress of the reform, explain how people can be involved and contribute to the reform process and dispel any myths and misinformation people may have heard.

Our latest site visit was to the Wakefield Plains Group at Balaklava on Wednesday evening, where we were also joined by CFSVA President, Roger Flavell. Members had questions about how the reform would impact on volunteers at the front line, including co-location of services, regional boundaries and how people can be involved in the working groups.

Whilst there are examples of where CFS, MFS and SES share premises, and benefit from this arrangement, co-location would be considered on an as needs basis.

During the consultation process in 2014 there was widespread support for examining the realignment of regional boundaries to be consistent with State Government administrative boundaries (and subsequently Local Government boundaries). The number of regions will be considered by the relevant working group. Whether they are still called regions is also yet to be determined - there may be a better term such as zones. Again, this will be determined by the relevant working group.

Does this mean that some CFS Groups, SES Districts or MFS Command may change composition? Possibly. The working group will need to consider this and if there are changes to the composition, the working group will need to determine a way to manage the transition.

### Working groups

As mentioned in the last newsletter, there has been a delay in starting the working groups to allow for an extended period of consultation with the Reference Group and Chief Officers. We also mentioned the application process (Expression of Interest and CV). This has resulted in some enquiries about how the working groups will operate.

Each working group will have a Chairperson. This person will be supported by the ESRO team and will be responsible for reporting to the Reference Group.

They will need to have a strong understanding of the content of the working group, as well as be able to facilitate meetings, lead the working group members and prepare documents.

Each working group will also have an Executive Officer to provide administrative support. This person will have strong administrative or project skills, but not necessarily subject knowledge - it would be a particularly good role for someone who is interested in a specific area, but does not currently have the detailed knowledge and understanding. It would also make a good professional development opportunity.

Role descriptions have been prepared for the roles of Chair and Executive Officer, as well as general working group members.

Working groups will prepare and submit a project plan to the Reference Group to ensure the outcomes align with the reform agenda and have considered the needs of volunteers and staff.

Regular updates on working group progress will also need to be provided to ESRO, the Reference Group and SAFECOM Board.

More details on the working groups will be provided in the work plan, which will be forwarded along with the Expressions of Interest form shortly. It is important to note that working groups have been scheduled in a way that considers the complexity and interdependencies of different topics.

### Working Groups include:

- Training
- Legislation
- Standards
- Workforce Planning
- Mission/Vision
- Service Delivery Boundaries
- IT Systems
- Image and Branding
- Response Boundaries
- Specialist Capabilities
- Command and Control
- Doctrine
- Working with the Community

Please keep your feedback, comments and questions coming in. We are contactable at:

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