

Emergency Services Reform Office

Newsletter

Reference Group Meeting

The second meeting of the Reference Group was held on Monday 23rd February. As most of you will be aware, the Minister announced some changes to the reform in response to concerns raised by personnel within the sector.

These changes include:

- The three Chief Officer positions to be retained.
- Making key appointments to SAFECOM to manage the corporate streams of the service, these being:
 - Capability and Support;
 - Volunteer and Community Resilience and;
 - Strategic and Corporate Services.
- Retention of the SAFECOM Board in the short term.
- The Sector will continue to work under existing legislative framework.

The Reference Group and Emergency Services Reform Office will continue to assist in the identification of non-operational areas and transition these to the three corporate streams.

The Reference Group will be meeting on 4th March, with the Minister, to provide feedback on these changes, to allow Reference Group members time to discuss these matters with their memberships.

This announcement means that the ESRO team will need to re-evaluate the **working groups** after the next Reference Group meeting. Some of the proposed working groups may no longer be needed and the scope and sequencing may change. We are receiving a lot of enquiries from people interested in participating in the working groups, so please bear with us as we review the working groups - we will advise everyone as soon as possible when we are in a position to seek expressions of interest. Please continue to register your interest in being on the ESRO mailing list, this will ensure you are sent the relevant information when the time comes.



For more in information, just click the link on the SAFECOM home page: www.safecom.sa.gov.au

Site visits

This week we have visited the CFS State Training Centre (STC) at Brukunga and the MFS, SES and CFS at Murray Bridge. These visits have helped to enhance our understanding of the activities that sector members undertake, allows the ESRO team to answer questions that sector members may have and provide updates on the reform progress.

We were able to tour the STC facility and gain an appreciation of the scale of the training provided by the CFS. Most of the training staff kindly made themselves available to meet with us to discuss the reform.

The Murray Bridge MFS provided the team with a tour of their facility and provided us with information about retained fire-fighting operations.

Murray Bridge SES outlined their concerns about the reform, clearly identifying the importance of volunteers and ensuring their roles are respected and supported. They also raised concerns about the communication - that it needs to be clearer.

Murray Bridge CFS echoed a number of the SES's concerns, particularly in regard to volunteer support and input into the reform process. They asked questions about budgets, regional structure and equity in resourcing.

We really appreciate the time that people took to discuss the reform with us. The openness, passion and knowledge of all the people we met, was very apparent.

Upcoming Dates

4th March - *Reference Group meeting*

Please keep your feedback, comments and questions coming in. We will do our best to include your suggestions for content in future editions. We are contactable at:

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