



FROM PREVIOUSLY SUCCESSFUL CFA APPLICANTS

Brigade **St Arnaud** *District* 16: **Field Command Vehicle - Toyota Prado**

St Arnaud's FCV



Simon Burge of St Arnaud Fire Brigade says the VESEP grant allowed the Brigade to replace their Field Command Vehicle (FCV) with a new Toyota Prado, enhancing the Brigade and Group's capability to manage fires and incidents, and allowing better communication back to the St Arnaud Local Command Facility (LCF) and the District office/ICC.

The FCV is often the first responder, carrying key personnel to the fire ground.

"We were successful with a trailer mounted generator four years ago. This gave us the confidence to apply again."

"Our previous FCV was a CSESP* grant item that was due for replacement (not an additional vehicle). Our replacement FCV project cost the brigade \$11,000 after trade-in."

* CSESP was the grant program before VESEP

When asked how the VESEP FCV assists the Brigade, the Group & the Community

Simon responded that in terms of the **Brigade**: "As well as use at fire call outs, we use the FCV for training, attending meetings, coming to Championships and assisting in our local community with the likes of the Good Friday Appeal for the Royal Children's Hospital."

"It enables the **Group** to have better co-ordination in directing fire ground resources. Our Group Management Team uses the vehicle to attend the likes of meetings at our District office."

"It's good for **Community members** because they can see their funds put to good use in protecting the local community and ensuring the local CFA volunteer firefighters have modern equipment to assist with the protection of life and property locally."

Asked what they thought made their application successful Simon replied: "We planned and worked hard on the project for 12 months - starting when the previous VESEP round closed."

"We undertook a lot of consultation with Brigade members, the Group, the District and our Region to make sure all were happy with what we were proposing and that they understood its necessity."

Your feedback about VESEP - Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program

"It's a sensational, truly great program because it stretches the hard-earned funds that our members work hard to raise and that the Community donates to the Brigade."

SIMON'S RECOMMENDED TIPS / HANDY HINTS:

2014-2015 VESEP round

Category: **EQUIPMENT-
 Fire and Incident Management**

Item: **Field Command Vehicle -
 Toyota Prado**

- Start your planning process early.
- Consider your options,
- Obtain as many quotations as possible to ensure you get the best price and don't be afraid to negotiate with suppliers for a better price.
- Don't be too disappointed if you are unsuccessful with your first application. You have to be in it to win it!