



VFBV | VOLUNTEER FIRE
BRIGADES VICTORIA

Volunteers call on all candidates to pledge support for CFA model

Key points:

- **Premier confirms plan to disassemble CFA will be tried again after election**
- **CFA Volunteers urge Government to immediately reconsider**
- **Every candidate invited to publicly pledge to not support actions to dismantle the CFA**

The Association representing Victoria’s 55,000 CFA Volunteers has called on the Premier and every other candidate to commit to not pursue the previously tried plan to disassemble the CFA.

VFBV CEO Andrew Ford said CFA Volunteers are deeply concerned that any attempt to re-try the plan that was defeated in Parliament at Easter this year would cause more unnecessary damage to the reputation of the CFA and morale of its incredible paid and volunteer firefighters.

“Many people who could see the dangers in the policy and fought to have it voted down in Parliament the first time understandably believe the issue has gone for good,” Mr Ford said.

“However, the Premier recently announced that a future Andrews Government would try again to implement the flawed plan to disassemble the CFA, rekindling the concerns many of our hard-working members have for Victoria’s future safety.”

“Consequently, we are calling on every candidate – including the Premier – to not support any action that will dismantle the CFA, irrespective of which Party is in power.”

“We sincerely hope we can elicit a genuine change of heart and get the policy taken off the table so our CFA volunteers and their paid colleagues can spend the summer doing what they always do so well without any distraction or stress caused by the anticipation of more unnecessary change.”

“VFBV is not party political. We are not telling people how to vote. We have serious concerns with the flawed policy agenda to dismantle CFA and want to make sure people vote with their eyes wide open.”

“We want all candidates to have the opportunity to be very transparent about where they stand on this issue. Volunteers will applaud those who support the CFA and encourage others to reconsider.”

“Candidates who are not willing to take the pledge do not support CFA Volunteers,” Mr Ford concluded.

The pledge database can be found via a link from www.SupportCFAVolunteers.com.au

The full text of the pledge VFBV invites every candidate to take is:

“I commit that I will not support any action that alters the existing CFA legislative arrangements unless such changes are recommended by an expert and independent review based on proper, transparent and evidence-based feasibility/cost/benefit analysis involving thorough consultation with CFA volunteers

AND

“I commit that I will not support any action, policy or legislative change likely to impact on CFA volunteers until the obligations and commitments set out in the CFA Volunteer Charter have been explicitly and fully adhered to.”