



26<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Fire Services Review  
30/121 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

To whom it may concern

**Re: Fire Services Review 2015**

The Euroa Fire Brigades Group on behalf of its 15 member brigades makes the following submission to the Review.

1. The BASO system is operating within the catchment with a Catchment Officer in support better than it used to in general terms although the BASO is often overloaded with CFA demands;
2. Our brigades last summer had surge assistance from outer metropolitan brigades and this was greatly appreciated;
3. The impact of the Fire Services Levy is being felt by farmers in our district and there is a high level of disquiet around;
4. The VESEP programme is considered to be very worthwhile and should be continued, as it is not just a brigade that benefits but the whole community;
5. Training for such positions as Strike Team Leader and Sector Commander are considered to be too time consuming for volunteer firefighters, particularly when many of them have farms and businesses to run. It may be alright for paid staff but it doesn't work very well for farmers or small businessmen;
6. Emergency fleet upgrades currently are around 27 years and this is anticipated to go over 30 in the near future. This is not conducive to vehicle response times being maintained at peak levels;
7. Air support last summer was very good and our firefighters were loud in their praise of the choppers. They were particularly effective in the rocky, hard to get at fires following lightning strikes; and
8. Our Group for some years now has conducted a CFA programme which enables high school students to develop firefighting skills in a controlled environment. This has shown great benefits for our communities and we consider that other Groups could benefit from it. We would be happy to provide further information.

Yours sincerely

Terry Cerini  
Group Secretary

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