

“VOLUNTEER CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL”

The NSW State Emergency Service Volunteers Association (SESVA) has, in consultation with the Commissioner Murray Kear, requested the Minister for Emergency Services the Honourable Steve Whan to enshrine the SESVA in the SES Act 1989 as amended. This has been achieved with the implementation of the “State Emergency Service Amendment (Volunteer Consultative Council) Bill 2010.

There are a number of reasons for this request; however, the main reason is to provide a “formal process” where the SES volunteers can make representation to SES Management on issues that may concern them in their role as SES volunteers.

The makeup of the Volunteer Consultative Council will have the Commissioner as Chairperson of the Council, three (3) members of paid staff, recommended by the Commissioner and appointed by the Minister for Emergency Services. Three (3) SES volunteers, one being the President of the SESVA, and two (2) other SES volunteers, and at least one of them must be a volunteer Controller, recommended by the SESVA and appointed by the Minister for Emergency Services.

The frequency, agenda(s) and duration of these meetings are yet to be determined; however, I am now calling for “expressions of interest” from all SES volunteers’ state wide. There is no set criteria or rules on who can or can’t be on this Council, apart from that fact they must be an active SES volunteer, however, it should be noted that I expect that discussion at this level will focus on doctrine, corporate planning, organisational structure, reviewing current practices, policies and procedures etc.

I do not envisage this Volunteer Consultative Council as a medium to discuss such things as ‘boots & overall’ issues, but rather insuring there are avenues available for SES volunteer, to not only discuss those issues, but actually have a say in how those issues will be addressed and/or resolved.

If you see yourself as someone who would like to represent the views of the SES Volunteers, and would like to be part of this very challenging new initiative please send me your CV and a covering letter (one page) explaining why you would like to be part of the program and touch on some areas in SES volunteering that you see as needing review. Closing date for the expressions of interest is COB 28th May 2010.

Charlie Moir

President NSW SESVA

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