

6th April, 2015

**The Hon. David Elliott, MP  
Member for Baulkham Hills  
Minister for Emergency Services  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001**



**Dear Mr Elliott,**

My name's Brian Williams, I'm the Vice President of the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (VFFA) & I'm writing to you on behalf of our President, Mr. Peter Cannon (OAM), who is currently facing health issues. Firstly may we congratulate you on your elevation to the NSW Government Ministry, in particular your role as Emergency Services Minister.

***Our Background:***

*The VFFA is an independent volunteer organisation representing the views and issues that affect volunteer rural fire fighters in NSW.*

*The VFFA was formed in October 2004 by Peter Cannon who is a Group Captain with the Mid Lachlan Team, after the then State Government, the RFS and the National Parks and Wildlife Service would not take an interest in our concerns into fire safety matters following the aftermath of the 2001 fires in the Goobang National Park. Peter felt that Volunteer Fire Fighters were not given fair representation within the Rural Fire Service Association (RFS) & thus, the VFFA was born.*

*The VFFA is led by a long serving, highly experienced and dedicated team who make Volunteer representations to the RFS & both State and Federal Governments. We have a Constitution and State Wide Regional Representatives in place. The Executive Council meets quarterly as a forum for members who may have issues, ideas and suggestions regarding improvements to our NSW Rural Fire Service.*

*Our latest State Government representation was to the Legislative Council, General Purpose Standing Committee No.5, Wambelong Fire Inquiry. Recommendation 19 from the Inquiry stated **"That the NSW Rural Fire Service formally recognize the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association as a legitimate advocacy organisation representing Volunteer Bush Fire Fighters, and duly consult with it on policy and operational matters"**.*

From its inception, the VFFA has been about representing the interests of Volunteers. We invite you to view our magazines (previous two copies enclosed) and our website [www.volunteerfirefighters.org.au](http://www.volunteerfirefighters.org.au)

We would like to give you the opportunity to introduce yourself to our members by offering you an A4 size page in our next VFFA magazine. The cutoff date for this is 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and can be forwarded to: [media@volunteerfirefighters.org.au](mailto:media@volunteerfirefighters.org.au)

You may be aware that the VFFA has not had the relationship with your predecessor that we felt was as constructive and effective as it could have been. We are very keen to work with you, collaboratively and on the basis of mutual respect. Our aims are not dissimilar to what we believe are yours, that is for the best possible volunteer fire fighting service delivered in a cost effective way which best supports our community and environment. To that end we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to lay the foundations for our positive working relationship for the many years that we hope you will be in your current role.

Please reply via email to [media@volunteerfirefighters.org.au](mailto:media@volunteerfirefighters.org.au) or for personal contact telephone myself on: **(02) 4567.0216**

Again congratulations on your appointment & we look forward to hearing from you soon.

**With kind regards,**

**Mr. Brian Williams  
Vice President  
Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (VFFA).**

**Correspondence to: PO Box 123, Clarence Town. NSW 2321**