



RFBAQ 6 Strategies

1 - A fully independent Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ).

For RFSQ to have a separate legislation and budget and for the reformed RFSQ to be comprised of rural fire brigades, Fire Wardens and rural fire staff.

For the RFSQ to have a Chief Officer, from a brigade background.

Rural Fire Service staff are to provide support and training to the brigades and their members. These brigades and support staff help landholders mitigate risk from bushfire, respond to fires and other emergencies, provide education to Queenslanders relating to fire and perform other rescue functions.

2 - Authorised Fire Officer

Current terms “Fire Officer”, and “Fire Service Officer” be replaced with the new inclusive term “Authorised Fire Officer”.

The RFBAQ see that an Authorised Fire Officer can be full time, part time or volunteer. The legislative concept of the one term that encompasses full time, part time and volunteers has been successfully demonstrated in the Tasmanian Fire Service Act 1979. Tasmania is one of the only States that has one piece of legislation that incorporates full time, part time and volunteer firefighters.

3 - Volunteer Respect Act

A Volunteer Respect Act would provide the legal framework that is necessary to ensure that emergency volunteers keep volunteering well into the 21st century.

It guarantees emergency volunteers certain legal rights and protections as we go about our duties, consultation on issues that affect us, the resources to get the job done, recognition of skills, and protection for employers and others who support us.

It gives clear direction to State and Federal Governments on all matters, Acts, Legislation, regulations, deeds, contracts and enterprise agreements that at present have negative impacts on volunteers’ rights; the work that volunteers can do; and the opportunity for volunteers to have a genuine and equal say on matters that affect us.





4 - Conditions of Service in Legislation

Recognising that while volunteers are unpaid, they deserve the same conditions of service as paid staff.

As volunteer firefighters are not covered by an award, they do not receive support to the same level as paid staff and SES volunteers (i.e. out of pocket expenses, working hours, accommodation and provision of meals). We would like to work to establish a set of agreed support conditions for RFB volunteers.

5 - Implementation of the Malone Review to the benefit of the volunteers and the Service

The Malone review is a holistic document that will better prepare and defend communities if rolled out in line with the intent of the report.

6 - Full fleet external audit by Qfleet and future redesign with a volunteer working group, in line with recommendation 77 of the Malone review

That vehicles are fit for the purpose and the Brigade locality for which they are intended. A group of two volunteers, in conjunction with the Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland, should be charged with reviewing current models and providing recommendations on vehicle suitability.

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