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Patron: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria

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Michael Galea MLC
Chair, Environment and Planning Standing Committee

6 July 2026

By email: 2026summerfires@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Galea,

**CFA's Questions on Notice: Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee
Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires**

Reference is made to the Committee's correspondence of 3 July, emailed to the CFA CEO.

As you know, I submitted CFA's response to the Committee's Questions on Notice (QoN) on 30 June. This was acknowledged by the Secretariat on 1 July.

The incomplete working draft you refer to in your correspondence (4 June) was submitted as an administrative error. Upon becoming aware of this, CFA advised the Secretariat and requested the document to be returned. This was acknowledged by the Committee Secretariat (5 June).

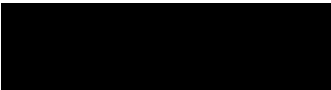
In relation to executive privilege considerations, the working draft contained content relating to the state budget development processes including infrastructure cost modelling, fleet bids and fuel management programs, and therefore, have been excluded from the final approved version.

In addition, there were aspects of the document that contained information from various internal contributors that amounted to conjecture on matters outside CFA's direct remit. This is inconsistent with the *Guidelines for appearing before and producing documents to Victorian Inquiries* (November 2025).

The QoN response provided by CFA on 30 June was validated and approved by myself and the Chief Officer as the people to whom the questions on notice were directed. The 30 June document was finalised with regard to the obligations upon witnesses in accordance with the guidelines.

I trust the responses above satisfy the Committee regarding the details surrounding our QoN response.

Yours sincerely,


Greg Leach AFSM
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Dean Tighe, Chief Executive and Deputy Secretary, Emergency Management Victoria
Jason Heffernan, Chief Officer, Country Fire Authority

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