



*Memorandum
of Understanding*

between the

**Australasian Assembly of Volunteer Fire Brigade
Associations Inc.**

and the

Australasian Fire Authorities Council



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It is with the support of over 220,000 volunteer firefighters in Australia and New Zealand that people, property and the environment are protected from the threat of fire. It is estimated that it would cost governments between \$1.5 and \$2 billion dollars annually to provide the current level of service being provided by volunteers.

The primary reason volunteers give freely of their time is to serve their community. It is of critical importance that these volunteers receive appropriate skill development and support and are recognised and valued for the contribution they make.

The relationship between the AAVFBA and AFAC has been developing and strengthening for some time, sharing a similar objective in supporting the work of volunteer firefighters. Both organisations' are committed to:

- The fostering of a strong relationship between our organisations;
- Facilitating information sharing on volunteer firefighter issues;
- Increasing collaboration on matters of mutual interest with the aim of developing common positions;
- Consulting on matters which may have significant impact on volunteers;
- Providing a forum or process for consultation to occur.

As senior executives of our respective organisations, and on behalf of our member organisations, we view this Memorandum of Understanding to be a welcome initiative; placing as it does the mutual support elements of this key relationship on a more formal basis.

We commit ourselves to both work within our jurisdictions, and together to support the success of this *Memorandum of Understanding*.

Signed in duplicate in Hobart, Tasmania this day of ,2007

For the
Australasian Assembly of Volunteer
Fire Brigade Associations Inc.

For the
Australasian Fire Authorities Council

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Bruce Conboy
President

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Naomi Brown
Chief Executive Officer