

Oakford Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

1099 Nicholson rd, Oakford

Perth, WA

Attn: Andrew Trosic

Dear Andrew,

After receiving your request for a letter of support in the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdales decision to investigate if a CESM would be suitable for our emergency services I forwarded the email to the members of the Oakford Volunteer Bushfire brigade for comment. I apologise in the lateness of getting this letter to you but I strongly believe in consulting with the Oakford members on all aspects of the brigade, this has been a strong commitment of mine in my time as captain.

I received feedback from a number of members both in writing and verbally and this was all positive, with many believing the appointment of a CESM would be beneficial to the volunteers and helps us foster a better relationship with DFES. There was also a general feeling amongst members that this matter of no permanent CBFCO or proactive leadership has to be addressed as it had gone on for far too long. It also needed to be addressed promptly as we rapidly approach what is shaping up to be a busy fire season.

Some key requirements we also believe that should be taken in to account in the selection process are:

- Someone who will work with and support the volunteers in operational duties
- Provide training or mentoring to volunteers
- Support the already established SJ Bushfire Brigades training team
- Not just using the role as a stepping stone to pursue other DFES roles

Myself and the members are happy to offer our full support in the shires decision to pursue a CESM but we do believe there needs to be careful consideration on those that apply as the biggest gripe I have heard from those with CESMs is finding “the right person for the role”.

Hopefully this matter gets sorted in due course and the SJ bushfire volunteers can go back to doing what they enjoy.

Sincerely

Mike Ross

Oakford BFB Captain