

Menu

Court restrains CFA from proceeding with agreement

Wednesday, August 17, 2016, 5:18pm

The Victorian Supreme Court today granted an injunction blocking the State's Country Fire Authority from pushing ahead with its new enterprise agreement.

The CFA board has endorsed the amended agreement, but has now given an undertaking not to put it to a ballot of employee firefighters until the case goes to trial.

The matter looks set to go a four-day hearing starting on September 22.

Justice Michael McDonald found there was a serious question to be tried as to the legality of the agreement, and set down an expedited hearing ahead of the summer fire season.

Counsel for Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, Stuart Wood QC, argued that the agreement would allow the United Firefighters Union to effectively veto the CFA's chief officer, Steve Warrington.

Outside the court, the injunction was welcomed by VFBV chief executive, Andrew Ford.

However, CFA chief executive Frances Diver said in a [statement](#) that the VFBV's legal action was a disappointing development that would delay the resolution of the bargaining dispute.

"This ongoing dispute has been damaging enough for our people," she said.

"We are now required to defer the vote and have asked that the VFBV action be heard in court as a matter of urgency, in the best interests of CFA members and staff."

Diver argued that the summer fire season is approaching, and the CFA board has acted decisively to give communities certainty by advising Warrington that he has full authority over all volunteers and career firefighters to protect public safety.

She said the CFA Board stood by its decision that progressing the agreement is the best way forward for the organisation.

[HOME](#)[SEARCH](#)[PRINT](#)[TOP](#)

RELATED CONTENT

 [Volunteer firefighters resume injunction bid](#)

 [Battle continues as CFA board adopts agreement](#)

LATEST JOBS

General Counsel

Regional Member Servicing Officer
Regional Manager - Eastern (NSW/ACT)
Industrial Relations Advisor
Employment Lawyer

[About us](#) · [Contact us](#) · [Terms of use](#) · [Privacy policy](#) · [FAQs](#) · [RSS / XML Feed](#)

Specialist News

Copyright © Workplace Express 2016. Workplace Express is a Specialist News Pty Ltd publication - ABN 330 935 804.