

Menu



Victoria appointing new fire body board after agreement dispute

Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 11:39am

The Victorian Government is looking to appoint a new board for the Country Fire Authority by the end of this week, after deciding to sack the incumbents on Friday for opposing a new enterprise agreement.

Premier Daniel Andrews yesterday refused to endorse the [CFA's](#) chief executive, Lucinda Nolan — a former high-ranking Victoria police officer — saying it was a matter for the new board.

"That will be a matter for them [the new board] and they will make a judgement," Andrews told ABC Radio.

While Andrews has claimed a dispute over a new enterprise agreement covering about 800 professional firefighters is now over, there is still opposition from large sections of the [CFA's](#) 55,000 volunteers.

On Friday, [Volunteer Fire Brigade Victoria](#), represented by industrial barrister Stuart Wood QC, won an [interim injunction](#) in the Victorian Supreme Court preventing the [CFA](#) board from signing the agreement until June 27 (see [Related Article](#)).

The issue looks set to dog Andrews whenever he sets foot outside Melbourne, with about 200 volunteer firefighters turning out today to protest at a renewable energy announcement in Ararat.



Herald Sun
@theheraldsun

Furious [#CFA](#) members ambush Premier Daniel Andrews in Ararat [trib.al/i1oIXUJ](#) (Pic: [@andrew_lund](#))

10:42 AM - Jun 15, 2016

Meanwhile, the [CFA](#) board reportedly received advice from Frank Parry QC, shortly before it was sacked, saying the agreement would allow the United Firefighters Union to effectively veto or delay even minor [CFA](#) management and operational decisions.

Parry's advice reportedly concluded that the amended deal still included a large number of clauses that affected the role of volunteers.

After conciliation before the Fair Work Commission, Commissioner Julius Roe released non-binding recommendations which said the agreement would not affect the role of volunteers.


On Monday, the [CFA](#) board said the enterprise agreement "creates a fundamental shift" from the Authority being a volunteer-based organisation working in an integrated way with paid firefighters, to a "separation between staff and volunteer activities."

The agreement has also been criticised by Jack Rush QC, the counsel assisting the Royal Commission that investigated the Black Saturday bush fires in 2009.


Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has also urged volunteer firefighters not to quit, but the row is a negative for Labor in regional and outer suburban seats as the July 2 federal election looms.

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


RELATED CONTENT

 [Victoria pushing ahead with CFA deal](#)

 [Tribunal's Ross dragged into CFA dispute](#)

 [Victoria seeks circuit-breaker for CFA dispute](#)

 [Coalition vows to outlaw discrimination against volunteers](#)

 [CFA wary of FWC bid to end bargaining stand-off](#)

LATEST JOBS

Senior Investigator

Senior Policy And Legal Adviser – Portable Long Service Benefits Projects Team

Employment & Industrial Lawyer

Industrial Support Officer - Part Time (0.6) - ASU Victorian and Tasmanian Authorities & Services Branch

IT Project Manager – Portable Long Service Benefits Projects Team

