

January 19, 2010

Secretary/Treasurer
Fire Brigade

Dear Brigade Secretary,

As you may be aware the Dandenong Ranges Community Bushfire Group (DRCBG) Inc was formed as a community response to the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires. We pride ourselves in our ongoing alignment with the local CFA brigades and have members within DRCBG who are both volunteers of Community Fireguard and CFA.

There is a community interest in relation to the use of CFA brigade sirens to alert local residents. More recently, as a way of further exploring options, DRCBG publicised a community meeting on the 9th of January 2010 to discuss various siren issues.

The meeting participants unanimously voted that the following proposal be put forward to the local CFA brigades for consideration and implementation as per the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner linked to CFA Interim Policy - On the use of CFA and Community Sirens.

DRCBG would like to propose that your brigade, as a part of the Ranges Group of Brigades, endorse the following:

"The CFA station sirens are utilised to sound with adequate coverage in a quantifiable or distinguishable and unified manner, to alert the community to seek further information in the instance of a potential or pending emergency. This to be considered as a pilot for the CFA Ranges Group of Brigades."

DRCBG are now contacting local CFA brigades as per the CFA Interim Siren's Policy (Schedule 1 - OESC - Guidelines for the use of Community Alert Sirens in Emergencies). As per step 2 of 6 under schedule 1 page 4 of 4 in the CFA interim Policy, we would like to make ourselves available for discussion with your Brigade Management Team or representatives to explain further.

As DRCBG Inc are requesting more than one brigades involvement for inclusion in this pilot, may we suggest that a meeting be convened following your initial Management Team discussion, to enable brigade representatives to discuss and obtain a consensus. Ideally a unified response to the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) chairperson and committee would result in a pilot be achievable.

In the interim, DRCBG will conduct a short online survey to further gauge both community response and interest under step 3 and 5 of the 6 step process.

To ensure survey coverage, your involvement would be appreciated in informing your brigade members and extended community of the online survey link to complete the survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5V8HCV8>

We thank-you in advance for bringing this proposal to the attention of your Brigade Management Team and brigade members.

To arrange further discussion, please call me at 9755 2313. The best time to reach me is between 9am and 5pm weekdays, but you can leave a voice message at any time, and I will return your call.

Sincerely,

Ms.Mel Gajdek

DRCBG Inc
Secretary